Daily Report

Latin America

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Guatemala's De Leon on Caribbean Basin Initiative

PA1906195494 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Jun 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] While in Cartagena de Indias, where he attended the Fourth Ibero-American Summit, Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio discussed the Central American governments' request to U.S. President Bill Clinton that the U.S. Government implement the benefits approved for Central America in the framework of the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI].

[Begin De Leon recording] We addressed a note to him expressing our concern regarding the agreements reached during GATT's Uruguay Round on 15 April, whereby the U.S. Government would apply a tariff on its beef imports. In our note, we pointed out that this decision would have a negative effect on economic reactivation and the consolidation of stability in our countries. For this reason, we emphasized in our note that the current concept of economic development and the United States' new foreign policy in Central America emphasize trade more than they do aid. We told President Clinton that, to be consistent with this policy, CBI benefits should continue to cover all of our beef exports without volume limitations, because, as we all know, cattle raising in Latin America plays a very important role in economic reactivation, job creation, and, of course, exports. We expect a favorable answer to this request. [end recording]

Central America Secures $700 Million at Summit

PA1906223994 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 107

[Text] Central America succeeded in securing more than $700 million during the Fourth Ibero-American Summit held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 14 and 15 June, regional presidents have reported.

Returning from Colombia yesterday, the presidents said Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez said he would announce Spain's incorporation into the BCIE [Central American Economic Integration Bank] as a foreign country member in 30 days.

In addition, the regional presidents secured Colombia's pledge to become a member and contribute $700 million, to be disbursed in two installments, one in 1994, the other next year.

Argentina will also bolster the BCIE capital with $60 million, as will Venezuela, with a possible contribution of $122.5 million.

The idea is to turn the BCIE into a stimulator of development and provide it with resources to combat poverty and promote regional plans for sustainable development.

The presidents said Spain decided to disburse $100 million of a $500-million fund earmarked for Central America on the occasion of the fifth centennial commemoration last year. This disbursement will be used to reinforce a high voltage electric interconnection network between the regional countries. The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] will support financing of the project with a $350-million loan.

The presidents said Spain has put a $380-million fund at the disposal of Central America and other countries of the continent as a complement to the aid the IDB is offering to Latin America.

The area presidents also spotlighted the unity that prevails among them.

Paraguay's Wasmosy Rejects Cuban Blockade

PY1606225294 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 10

[Article by unidentified "special" reporters from Cartagena de Indias, Colombia]

[Excerpts] At the closing of the Fourth Ibero-American summit of heads of state and government that was held in this city, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy on 15 June expressed his rejection of the trade embargo on Cuba. Nonetheless, he urged Cuban President Fidel Castro to effect a democratic opening in his country. [passage omitted]

Wasmosy referred to the situation confronting the Cuban nation: "We are against blockades, but by the same token we request that there be a greater democratic opening in Cuba. Resolutions taken in that country will thereby have more legitimacy."

Another issue discussed by the heads of state and government was the "right to life." But no consensus was reached on it in order to draft a joint summit declaration.

The subject was discussed on 15 June by Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, who in a plenary summit session moved that a unified pronouncement condemning abortion be made. This motion was supported by Wasmosy.

Our head of state said: "We protect the right to life. We believe that there is life from the moment an ovum is fertilized. Therefore, pursuant to our religious beliefs and laws, we deem that abortion is a crime." [passage omitted]

Urges Cuban Modernization

PY1706135694 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 28

[Report by unidentified special correspondents]

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, Colombia—President Juan Carlos Wasmosy on 16 June expressed his desire that the changes in Cuba should emerge without any bloodshed. He expressed his hope that Fidel Castro, on his own initiative, will begin the modernization of the Cuban state.

"I hope that day is close, I hope Fidel Castro will personally begin this modernization, this change that the whole world is expecting in Cuba. Let the change be implemented slowly, without trauma and without bloodshed," Wasmosy said.

He indicated that when the changes happen, Paraguay will open its doors to the Cuban people as a whole because the Cuban people are dear to us all. He maintained that everything has been done to try to bring about more freedom, a greater opening in the Caribbean island. He expressed his sadness regarding the blockade that surrounds Cuba. "We have asked for a program of opening for the Cuban people," Wasmosy said.

Holds Talks With Frei, Duran Ballen

PY1706161894 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy returned last night to Asuncion from the Fourth Ibero-American Summit that was held in Cartagena [Colombia] between 13 and 15 June. Wasmosy met with his Ecuadoran and Chilean colleagues, Sixto Duran Ballen and Eduardo Frei, respectively, on 16 May in that city.

During his first address, Wasmosy's call for a sea outlet for our country was warmly received by Frei, who promised his government will immediately begin the construction and paving of the 60 km stretch of highway that will connect northeast Argentina and Antofagasta [Chile] and thus open an outlet to the Pacific for our exports.

Wasmosy stressed that his government will improve and pave the highway that connects Mariscal Estigarribia [Paraguay] with Pozo Hondo [Paraguay] through Mision La Paz [Argentina], which will make possible the connection with Chile.

It must be reported that Wasmosy's appeal for a sea outlet with a smoother policy did not receive encouraging answers from Argentina or Uruguay. The president indicated that speeches have no significance if in practice there is no real cooperation. The president questioned the customs tariffs that Argentina charges on our exports.

He also said he cannot conceive the river waterway without the incorporation of the River Plate.

During his meeting with Duran Ballen, Wasmosy invited him to officially visit our country. The Ecuadoran president will visit the country at the end of the year with a trade mission.

Wasmosy also met with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria in Cartagena's Hilton Hotel. Gaviria later reported that he promised his Paraguayan colleague that within the next few days he will send a mission of legal experts to advise the executive branch on the drafting of a bill for the repression of drug trafficking. He gave no more details.

Another topic discussed by the two presidents is that Paraguay should make its presence felt more at the OAS taking into account that Gaviria will in the near future take over as secretary general of the organization replacing Joao Baena Soares.

Ruben Melgarejo Lanzoni, Paraguayan ambassador to the OAS, who also participated in the meeting, indicated that Gaviria promised a larger participation in the organization's posts to our country, including the post of OAS representative to member countries.

Melgarejo Lanzoni also indicated that he did not reject the idea that the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] Treaty could be modified to allow the membership of Chile and Bolivia. He indicated that Wasmosy and Frei had also discussed the topic.

Wasmosy reported that he will thoroughly overhaul the foreign service "by creating a school of diplomacy," in other words, establish a career system that will remain unchanged no matter who is in power. "Our foreign policy must be one and one alone," he said.

Mercosur, Andean Pact Seek 'Concerted Action'

PY1706025394 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 14 Jun 94 p 6

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi from Cartagena, Colombia]

[Text] The Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) is being revitalized by the integration accords in the continent, LAIA Secretary General Antonio Antunes said. At its headquarters in Montevideo, the organization is hosting meetings of tobacco industry workers from Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries and Chile. They want a master agreement on labor relations. The universities and media of these countries also are approaching each other. There are possibilities for concerted action by and consolidation of Mercosur and the Andean Pact. Antunes said that negotiations also have their crises. He did not rule out the possibility that subregional groups may in the future have a preferential relation with the United States and countries outside the region.

The LAIA Council of Ministers has decided to draw up a program of action seeking to coordinate the Andean Group, Mercosur, and the various bilateral and multilateral agreements. The idea is to make those agreements lead to a Latin American common market. In this regard, the proposal for the creation of a South American Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which was raised by Brazil and has been endorsed by Mercosur countries, is a major contribution, Antunes said.

In August, LAIA will have to make suggestions for this higher integration phase that its members are looking for. To this end, it will need a set of commercial regulations with antidumping, origin, and customs rules. "That is the initial step," Antunes said.

The organization also is working to define rules for transportation and for new subjects like the sale of services, intellectual property, and capital movements. Mexico itself, which usually has criticized LAIA, believes the organization is modernizing, as Mexico's main NAFTA negotiator, Herminio Blanco, admitted a few days ago in London during a seminar on relations between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Latin America, Brazilian diplomatic sources said.

The protocol that interprets Article 44 and the program of action have meant a qualitative step forward for LAIA, Antunes said.

LAIA, he said, is on its way to becoming a regional GATT. The organization will create a labor council, promote a second meeting on consumer rights, and continue its business talks, encouraging major entrepreneurs of signatory countries to invest in smaller countries in order to export to their own countries.

Antunes' conclusion is that the expansion of commerce produces the need for integration and instruments for regulating commerce, like fair competition rules. Mexico itself, which requested a solution for its problem within LAIA—because it is also a NAFTA member—is negotiating bilateral and regional free trade agreements with several countries, expecting its profits to surpass the compensation it will have to offer.

Greece and South Africa have asked to be accepted as observers to LAIA. China is in the final stage of the process of being accepted as an observer, while Romania already has been granted the status of observer. Antunes said LAIA is trying to negotiate the status of observers in exchange for cooperation agreements with the observer countries, thus guaranteeing the future possibility of signing trade accords with LAIA members.

Andean Parliament Demands End To Blockade on Cuba, Haiti

PY1706135594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1747 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Lima, 16 Jun (EFE)—Venezuelan Congressman Paciano Padron, the president of the Andean Parliament, stated today that the Andean Parliament is opposed to the commercial blockade against Cuba and Haiti as a way to restore democracy in both countries.

In remarks to the magazine CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress], the official mouthpiece of the Peruvian Congress, Padron said: "It is a bad idea to continue the blockade against Cuba and Haiti because the people have the right to survive and subsist."

The Andean Parliament president said: "It is not ethical to submit a nation to starvation in the name of democracy."

Padron added that commercial blockades, like that imposed recently on Haiti and the one that has prevailed for 32 years against Cuba, "affect the people, not the generals or officials who continue drinking wine and eating meat while the people have nothing to quench their thirst or assuage their hunger."

The Venezuelan congressman asked the OAS to find a political solution to the Haitian and Cuban problems and to conduct all necessary diplomatic negotiations "instead of settling for less humane alternatives."

OAS Secretary General Interviewed on OAS Role

PY1606235794 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 13 Jun 94 p 24

[Interview with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares by Carlos Banales Marino, EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO correspondent in Washington, D.C.; date not given]

[Text] [Banales Marino] What are the differences between the OAS you encountered 10 years ago and the OAS you are leaving now?

[Baena Soares] I am very pleased with the fact that I was able to be present at the OAS during a period of reaffirmation and modernization of our organization. I am leaving an organization that is prominent; able to meet new challenges; has been strengthened by member countries' political will; is able to react to attacks on democratic processes; and is prepared to cope with serious problems involving trade, environment, illegal drug abuse, and all those issues currently worrying the modern world. All the governments represented at the OAS have been elected in free elections and this represents a huge difference from the situation 10 years ago.

[Banales Marino] Are we entitled to say that the OAS has matured as an international organization throughout these 10 years?

[Baena Soares] I believe it has improved. This organization was established in 1889. Afterward, our countries met periodically until the OAS Charter was voted on in 1948. And this may be the date when the OAS was formally established. It is not possible to say that an organization established more than 100 years ago is not mature. I would prefer to say that this was a period of reaffirmation of our organization as a mechanism for dialogue among countries in our hemisphere.

[Banales Marino] At this moment and with the current OAS structure, do you believe the OAS has more mechanisms available to improve Latin America's political and social perspectives?

[Baena Soares] No doubt. I believe these mechanisms involve the three reforms of the OAS Charter and the approval of such a new idea as integral development.

[Banales Marino] During your tenure as OAS secretary general there were a number of crises in Latin America in which the OAS became strongly involved. In your opinion, which one was the most delicate?

[Baena Soares] I believe the entire peace process in Central America represented a very significant participation effort by our organization. We are involved in various stages of a process in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Understandably, this is absolutely necessary from a humanitarian viewpoint—in the first place—and considering a country's economic interests, job openings, and the use of land.

When democracy was under attack, we created a favorable atmosphere with our participation, but I am aware of the fact that the decisions to restore democracy are made by the people. It is not the OAS but the people who guarantee democracy. The inter-American community, through the OAS, may actually cooperate, assist, and create a favorable atmosphere. In Haiti, we still have problems. I am used to saying that the mere fact that there still are problems is something essential because, if you look back, 15 years ago there were people like Duvalier and Generals Nanfir and Avril. There was a different reaction, one of approval. Now there is one of rejection. Not a single American country has recognized the de facto authorities in three years. Moreover, there has always been an adverse reaction, seeking a solution. What are the roots, the profound reasons for this crisis?

The links between entrepreneurs and the military are at the root of the crisis because the entrepreneurs never accepted the elections, never accepted the presence of President Aristide. And as long as we do not tackle the cause of an illness, it cannot be cured.

[Banales Marino] Do you believe the embargo on Haiti, the way it is currently being implemented, represents a final solution?

[Baena Soares] As long as some entrepreneurs are allowed to travel abroad, do business, and carry out transactions with their foreign accounts, we will be doing something that does not directly affect the people responsible. Therefore, I am saying that not all our organization's and its member countries' resources have been exhausted. Attempts already have been made to achieve an agreement. We already have four agreements signed. These agreements have not been respected at either the OAS or the United Nations. Therefore, solutions may not be invented. In my opinion, a military intervention does not represent a solution. We must not forget that in the past Haiti was occupied for 19 years. Duvalier's period, and not democracy, followed this occupation. The consequences of the Duvalier period still can be seen.

[Banales Marino] What about Cuba?

[Baena Soares] Cuba is a country that belongs to this hemisphere. The OAS is this hemisphere's international organization that may not ignore any situation prevailing in this hemisphere. We currently are experiencing many changes in the international system. There are transformations that must be taken into account. All this represents a clue for discussion of this issue. I cannot anticipate the stances to be taken by the governments, but I can actually point out that it is necessary to hold this discussion. This issue has not been included on the OAS General Assembly's agenda but it obviously is present.

Bolivian Minister Addresses OAS Assembly

PY1606221394 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 9 Jun 94 p A13

["Text" of address by Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga to the 24th OAS General Assembly in Belem do Para, Brasil—released by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Information General Directorate in La Paz on 8 June]

[Text] "Bolivia is immensely grateful to the Inter-American community for its support over our just claim to a sea outlet as expressed in 11 resolutions issued by the OAS General Assembly. This support constitutes an OAS political and diplomatic legacy toward our most important international dispute, which is yet unresolved and which undermines our morale and our economic

development. The sea is an essential part of Bolivia's material and spiritual integrity. We need a solution to this problem, and we are obliged to find it.

"The community of the Americas has unequivocally recognized the need for the two involved countries to achieve a peaceful and friendly solution to the landlocked situation Bolivia has endured since it lost its sea coast during the Pacific War. This negotiation at the OAS level does not conflict with bilateral or trilateral discussions on this issue, nor with inevitable direct negotiations on the maritime issue. On the contrary, they are in line with the friendly spirit that must reign in hemispheric relations. It is only normal for nations of the Americas to be concerned and to urge those countries involved in unresolved conflicts to find friendly solutions.

"Was it not the support of the countries of the Americas which paved the way for achieving the Torrijos-Carter agreements through which Panama regained its sovereignty over the Panama Canal? Was it not the support of the international community which led to peace between Palestine and Israel? Was it not the support of the international community which helped to definitely eradicate apartheid in South Africa?

"I believe we are all obliged to build a peaceful, friendly, and secure region for our children.

"Although the future seems bright, both Chile and Bolivia are determined to establish conditions and measures of mutual trust and tolerance, and despite renewed appeals by the OAS General Assembly, it is obvious that the governments directly involved have been unable to achieve a suitable satisfactory solution.

"The international scenario has witnessed changes and advancements at the end of this century which seemed utopian a few years back. Ideological and racial barriers, and conflicts between nations are giving way to agreements that honor justice, solidarity, and international peace.

"In view of this why should countries tied by a common heritage be unable to achieve agreements that will restore Bolivia's original status as a Pacific rim country, and definitely heal old wounds?

"There is no legal argument in the world that can override the deep feeling of a nation that tells our governments to end their defensive and negative positions, and formal speeches for the sake of creative measures that will allow the establishment of ethical international relations.

"We believe in integration and in the complementation of countries with common interests that are able to ban chauvinism and misunderstandings for the sake of uniting their efforts and overcoming the challenges of a future filled with uncertainties, in which the one single enemy is the poverty of our countries.

"Latin America is living in an era of democracy and cohesive cooperation that demands a consensus. A new mentality of trust and credibility is taking hold in the region. A mentality in which neighbors do not look upon each other as potential antagonists. One in which the creative force of our countries is surging. One in which there is a clear awareness that the countries of the region are one family and that they must unite under the new breezes sweeping through contemporary history.

"We must support each other, without impositions or exclusions. We must engage in common undertakings, encourage our reciprocal knowledge, promote the rapprochement of our societies, strengthen our cultural ties, and tear down the fences of misunderstanding, prejudice, dogmas, and insensitivity. This is definitely the state of mind with which we must welcome the next century.

"Not so long ago, as a result of the new mentality upheld by their respective administrations, and by overcoming Chaco War grievances, Paraguay and Bolivia were able to achieve a long-sought historic rapprochement. Current ties and friendly relations bind today the two countries which optimistically seek excellent rewards from trade, road interconnections, the Paraguay-Parana waterway, the Pilcomayo river, and other similarly important projects. Bolivian-Paraguayan ties constitute a model for Latin America and an example that should be followed.

"For the good of the Latin American community, the same is occurring among other countries in the region where neighboring countries which, until recently were faced with what seemed insurmountable rivalries, have resolved long-standing border problems in an exemplary manner, achieving an excellent level of ties.

"Recent developments allow us to view with prudent optimism Bolivian-Chilean ties. Meetings between high-ranking government officials have been cordial. During President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's trip to Santiago, Chile, on the occasion of the Rio Group presidential summit, several meetings were held between the Bolivian and Chilean presidents. The preponderant role the Catholic Churches of Chile and of Bolivia have played in this process is also worthy of mentioning. It is clear, however, that despite all auspicious circumstances that have been discussed, Bolivia continues to suffer the consequences of its landlocked situation. This is undoubtedly one of the most clear obstacles in the path of full integration in the Americas.

"I am certain that all the countries represented here hope to see noble gestures from the countries involved and, by the next OAS General Assembly, bear witness to a solution to this issue.

"The challenge facing the new administrations of Bolivia and Chile today is to build together a future of peace and cooperation. There is no better inspiration to achieve this goal than the conviction expressed by the great Chilean Poet Vicente Huidobro who said: 'As a Chilean

and as a human being, I believe and assert that we must negotiate with Bolivia as soon as possible and that the two countries should and must resolve the serious issue involving Bolivia's outlet to the sea fraternally and with generosity.'"

Parlatino Members Discuss Drugs in Iquique

PY1706144694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Iquique (Chile), 16 Jun (EFE)—The need to fight against drug trafficking and consumption and the replacement of coca plantations in Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru through international aid are the proposals the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) began to debate today, 16 June.

The meeting began today in the Chilean port of Iquique, 1,857 km north of Santiago, and will end tomorrow, 17 June, with the release of conclusions on subjects such as drug trafficking, the foreign debt, energy and mines, economic matters, and international law.

Bolivian Deputy Guido Camacho, president of the Antinarcotics Defense Commission [Comision de Defensa en la Lucha Contra el Narcotrafico], told EFE that the international community must participate in coca replacement policies in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, given that this agricultural product generates revenues in those countries.

He said there is the legal consumption of coca, especially by Bolivian and Peruvian peasants as part of their daily diet.

The Parlatino members pointed out that excess coca goes for the production of cocaine, which leads to drug trafficking.

Camacho added that measures must be adopted to prevent this from happening. Enforcement policies must be reinforced with preventive measures, related to the need to replace the coca plantations with alternative crops.

This must be done within a plan to improve highway infrastructure and other measures to pave the way for a more adequate trade of agricultural products, Deputy Camacho said.

He added that the proposal to legalize the use of cocaine in Colombia will be discussed at the meetings to be held on Friday.

Among the proposals is one submitted by Chile demanding punishment for drug traffickers and also for consumers.

When asked about the validity of the conclusions released by the Parlatino for the governments, the Bolivian deputy explained that the resolutions will approved by consensus of the Parlatino members who will then take these ideas to the congresses of their respective countries to turn them into laws.

Cuba

Castro Criticizes 'Enemy to North,' Returns to Havana

FL1706122694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro returned to the fatherland at 0424 GMT on 17 June from Cartagena de Indias, where he participated in the fourth Ibero-American summit of heads of state and government.

Fidel met Colombian businessmen from the financial and investment sectors hours before returning to Havana. Fidel also held a comprehensive meeting with those expressing Colombia's solidarity with Cuban organizations. During the 16 June meeting with those expressing solidarity with Cuban organizations, Castro stressed that Latin America still lacks a true sense of integration, although the summits help this.

He added that the main obstacle to Latin American integration is the United States, which wants to divide the continent and limit its independence. Fidel pointed out that this is why Washington advocates bilateral accords, just as it did regarding the foreign debt which it negotiated one on one because it does not want to face a united Latin America. Fidel also stated that the Ibero-American summits are so important that the enemy to the north was envious and called another summit in Miami, a city which it hopes to turn into the Latin American capital. As in his Cartagena address, Fidel reiterated that Cuba is not opposed to that summit even though Cuba believes it was cowardly to exclude Cuba since U.S. leaders are afraid of words, ideas, and the truth. He added that this shows political weakness. Fidel pointed out that he would attend if he were invited, even to Miami. The organizers, however, have already said that this will not happen. He explained that he is not opposed to the summit because he expects the Latin American countries to firmly defend the region's interests in that forum.

Remarks on 'Cowardly' U.S. Summit Arrangements

CM2006153994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba Network in Spanish 1253 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro during news conference with domestic correspondents following the fourth Ibero-American summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 16 June; from the "Doing Radio" program—recorded]

[Text] I cannot say that there are paramount differences between summits. Progress was made at all of them, and altogether they represent something positive. The summits are being honed. We are never fully satisfied with everything discussed or said at the summits. Yet, the fact that the summits are taking place is an important step in Latin American history. As I told representatives of the solidarity groups today, it is the first time in history that we meet or hold meetings...[pauses] This is already the fourth.

The summits have gained strength. These Latin American summits have become institutionalized. Each one has made a contribution, fostered certain accords, and promoted specific results. The summits, in general, yield results. They have fostered greater awareness, understanding, and a spirit of cooperation among Latin American leaders. This is reflected in the diverse steps the Latin American peoples are taking toward integration. The summits' value does not lie in what is accomplished but in what is fostered. The summits have truly fostered much.

I liked this summit. Guadalajara was first; Rio was also good; some things came out of Spain. The Caribbean atmosphere, this city's spirit, the hospitality, the quality—although also present in Rio and Guadalajara—contributed to this summit. We felt closer to our climate and character.

You can see how important these summits are by the fact that they have prompted the Miami summit. Our northern neighbors are worried and envious of the fact that this movement continues to grow and advance and has attained specific results in establishing subregional integration mechanism. Therefore, they want to have their own. We do not know if they want to hold it annually. Of course, they began by excluding us, which is a clear act of cowardice. They fear debate and discussion. They fear the truth.

They know I would go to the summit even if it were held in the very city of Miami. The truth, however, is that they do not want to see me there. This exclusion is mediocre and cowardly and reflects political weakness. As I explained, however, I am not opposed to that summit. On the contrary, we must start discussing the issues that ought to be discussed at that summit because it is an opportunity. One cannot reject an opportunity to have the Latin American and Caribbean peoples go there and talk with the alleged masters of this hemisphere. I hope they have enough spirit and courage. There are always certain courageous men that will express certain truths at that summit and defend the many interests of Latin America and the Caribbean.

'Loathsome' U.S. Summit Exclusions Cited

FL1706145094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Remarks by President Fidel Castro during news conference with domestic correspondents following the fourth Ibero-American summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 16 June; from the "Doing Radio" program—recorded]

[Text] The issues that ought to be discussed at the Miami summit include: the defense of sovereignty; the principle of nonintervention in Latin American affairs; and the abandonment of pretexts used to meddle more and more in domestic affairs, such as the drug trafficking problem. The United States should not use this as an excuse to try to limit the sovereignty of Latin American countries and turn their armies into police forces. There are many political and economic issues.

I was thinking that if it is true that they—as they say—want to establish a more mature relationship and withdraw their bases from Latin America, they must not forget to close the Guantanamo base. They must fulfill their agreements and withdraw forces from Panama and any other country. Security, political, and economic problems ought to be discussed at that summit. There are many things.

If they want the views of the nongovernmental organizations, they ought to ask everyone's opinion—indigenous people, women, unions, civilian organizations, etc.—without exclusions. There is a gamut of things to discuss with the United States. I advocate the Latin American peoples' discussion of those issues at that notorious Miami summit. It will be a summit of Latin American and Caribbean countries. I know courageous politicians. I have met them at these summits. I have met them in the Caribbean, worthy and capable people.

We hope these issues will be brought up to challenge the slogans. As I said, we have lived from decade to decade, from slogan to slogan, from century to century, lie after lie. Every new administration comes up with something new...[pauses] the Alliance for Progress, the Initiative for the Americas. Every president invents a new catch phrase for the day. They should not allow this to become another catch phrase for the day. I am glad that the summits we have held, free from the intervention of third parties and without having to get anyone's permission, have forced them to convene the Miami summit.

Of course, they could have selected a different city. Miami has already been chosen. They did not bother to hide the fact that this is a political ploy, a U.S. domestic policy ploy. They have returned to their loathsome exclusions, which reflect deep down—I say it again—political cowardice, lack of courage to face the debate, and lack of courage to discuss the truth. They do not want to catch sight of anything, like my uniform or guayabera. [laughter]

Cuba's Presence at Summit 'Exceptional'

PA1706150094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro returned to Havana from Cartagena de Indias where he participated in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit. The last activities by the Cuban chief of state were separate meetings with Colombian groups that support Cuba and with Colombian businessmen. The Cuban President reiterated in Cartagena de Indias that the importance of the Ibero-American summits stems basically from the fact that it is the first time the Latin American countries meet without anyone convoking them.

At a meeting with representatives of Colombian organizations that support Cuba, Castro referred to the progress and perspectives of Latin American integration and the so-called Summit of the Americas, convoked by the United States for later this year. He called the presence of Cuba in the Ibero-American summits exceptional because for the first time it is not excluded. In this regard, he said the support of Mexico, which hosted the first summit, and the support of other friendly countries had a lot to do with Cuba's presence at the summit.

The Cuban president noted that the summits have contributed to combating Cuba's isolation, to creating awareness of the blockade it has endured, to giving a lesson to the United States, to increasing Cuba's relations with many countries, and to enhancing rapprochement among Latin American countries. Fidel Castro said that currently, there does not exist a true integration conscience in Latin America, but that the summits are contributing to this. He said the main obstacle is the United States, which is attempting to prevent Latin America from being more independent.

The Cuban chief of state said the Ibero-American summits are so important that the northern enemy was envious and invented another summit, precisely in Miami, which it wants to turn into the capital of Latin America. He reiterated, nonetheless, that Cuba is not opposed to that summit, despite the fact that he believes Cuba's exclusion is cowardice. He explained this is because U.S. Government leaders are afraid of words, ideas, and truths, which denotes political weakness. Castro noted that he is not opposed to the summit in Miami because he hopes that the Latin American countries there will firmly defend the interests of the region.

Further on Castro Remarks on Summit

PA1806030494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Report on news conference by President Fidel Castro with domestic journalists at the conclusion of the Fourth Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] After completing his activities in Colombia, where he attended the Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, Cuban President Fidel Castro granted a news conference to Cuban journalists who covered this important meeting. In his first reply, Fidel said he does not believe there were substantial differences between the summit in Cartagena de

Indias and the previous ones held in Guadalajara, Madrid, and Salvador de Bahia.

[Castro] "I believe that there have been (?advances) in all of them, and that altogether, they are positive. They have improved. One is never satisfied with everything discussed at the summit, or everything that is said. The mere fact that the summits are held constitutes an important historical step in Latin America. As I was explaining today to solidarity groups, it is the first time in history that [words indistinct]. There have been several summits, this was the fourth. These meetings have been consolidated and have been institutionalized. These Latin American summits have been institutionalized. Each one has [words indistinct] and each one ends with specific agreements, has promoted specific actions, but they have a general [word indistinct]. I believe that a [words indistinct] among Latin American leaders has been created, with greater understanding, a greater spirit of cooperation reflected in the various activities of Latin American countries in favor of [words indistinct].

"We should not analyze the summits only by what they achieve, but for what they promote. They have helped promote things. In my opinion, these summits are so important that they have triggered the Miami Summit. Our northern neighbors got worried [words indistinct] specific results in subregional integration organizations. Therefore, they decided to call a summit; we still do not know if it will be an annual summit. Of course, you know what the exclusions are [words indistinct] they know that even though the summit is in Miami, I would go [words indistinct] I believe this is a cowardly exclusion, which reflects the [words indistinct] because it is an opportunity, we cannot deny it, of creating a Latin America [words indistinct] the presumed owners of this hemisphere. I hope there will be enough enthusiasm—and there is always [word indistinct] and enough courage—and there are always courageous men—to mention some truths in that summit. I hope that the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are many, are defended."

Fidel Castro also pointed out that having given intensity to social development issues is one of the modest contributions Cuba made to the Ibero-American summits.

[Castro] "[Word indistinct] we have made a strong effort to raise the summits' spirits and to give meaning to them. I believe the Cuban delegation has no reason to be (?ashamed) of these statements, and [words indistinct], especially at this summit because we are looking at the so-called Miami Summit. We already started discussing the Miami Summit. We believe these summits have created awareness. Integration awareness is one such issue created by these summits. We should measure the success of the summits by the number of tangible issues, not by the awareness they have created, the rapprochement they have generated, or the contacts achieved by the Latin American rulers. [Words indistinct] of the Cuban contribution; Cuba has made a modest contribution. You were asking about the summits' contribution to Cuba. I can tell you they have contributed to fighting Cuban isolation, to creating awareness of the blockade, to giving a lesson to the United States, and to [words indistinct] Cuba's expulsion. Cuba recently improved its relations with the rest of Latin America; Cuba has encountered a more propitious climate for economic relations and trade."

As for the Miami hemispheric summit, the Cuban president was asked what issues the Latin America should stress there.

[Castro] "We must promote the defense of sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention in Latin America. In addition, those pretexts used to intervene in Latin America's domestic affairs, such as drug trafficking, must no longer be used to violate the Latin American countries' sovereignties. We must change armies into police bodies. In other words, there is a number of economic and political issues that should be stressed at the Miami summit. I was thinking that if the United States indeed wants to have more mature relations and if it wants to close its military bases in Latin America, it should not forget the Guantanamo base; the United States should comply with the agreements signed to remove all military bases in Panama and in any other country. There are security, political, and economic problems that must be discussed at this summit. I would say there is a world to be discussed there.

"I urge the Latin American countries to discuss these issues at the so-called Miami Summit. I know very brave Latin American and Caribbean politicians. I met them at these Ibero-American summits; they are valuable and capable people. I hope they will bring these issues up at the Miami Summit. The slogans that were uttered from decade to decade and from century to century were just lies and more lies."

To this effect, the top Cuban leader pointed out the United States continues to be the biggest obstacle to Latin American integration.

[Castro] "The United States wants to disintegrate us, because it opposes true Latin American integration. It wants the countries to move forward on their own. [Words indistinct] toward integration, the United States is promoting bilateral integration among the many Latin American countries. The same thing that happened with the foreign debt, when it opposed holding negotiations with an integrated Latin America, is happening now. The United States refuses to let Latin America integrate; it wants to sign agreements with individual countries to meet its own interests, thus preventing a true American union from forming. One thing, however, is what the United States wants, and another is what Latin Americans are doing on their own: promoting their own bilateral agreements.

"Mexico is promoting bilateral free trade agreements with different countries. It already did that with Chile. Although Mexico is a NAFTA member, Mexico also just signed a free trade agreement with Venezuela and

Colombia, the Group of Three. They say the ideas of free trade and Latin American integration are slowly making headway."

Cuban reporters were not an exception and also asked Castro about the guayabera shirt he wore in Cartagena, generating such great surprise and suspicion.

[Castro] "The tale of the guayabera has been quite a tale. [Words indistinct] some people disagreed, I mean some of the security people. (?A girl) asked why I took off my uniform. No, I continue to wear my uniform deep inside, [words indistinct] but I am already used to those boots [words indistinct] the first day I wore the slacks [words indistinct] and yesterday I also (?wore it) so she could tell me I was wearing the uniform [words indistinct], and that I was wearing a guayabera and slacks as uniform [words indistinct] navy blue plants and a guayabera, but I kept the boots. I only took my boots off to sleep. [laughter]"

[Reporter] "Commander."

[Castro] "[Passage indistinct] I did it heeding an invitation or the request made to everyone. I did not want to (?stand out) [words indistinct]."

[Reporter] "[Question indistinct]"

[Castro] "[Words indistinct] [laughter] I wear my olive green uniform again.

[Reporter] "People in Cuba are [words indistinct]"

[Castro] "I can [words indistinct], tomorrow I would not [words indistinct]."

[Reporter] "You are not going to have the final word. [laughter]"

[Castro] "No, that does not mean I will never again wear it, but (?I may wear it) to some reception [words indistinct] it is comfortable. It is truly comfortable. I do not know if [words indistinct] Robertico [Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina] with a uniform [words indistinct] [laughter]"

[Reporter] "[Words indistinct]"

[Castro] "I felt comfortable because it is truly hot there and [words indistinct] but I think I am going back to my olive green uniform. It is an old habit."

Radio Cadena Nacional Interview

FL2006011094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1732 GMT 18 Jun 94

["Exclusive" interview with President Fidel Castro by Radio Cadena Nacional, RCN, journalist Antonio Caballero in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 16 June—recorded]

[Text] [Caballero] [Words indistinct] Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN] of Colombia. Good morning.

[Castro] Good morning and thank you.

[Caballero] Well, let us begin at the beginning, as the saying goes. Was it a rhetorical summit again, or did it include important, substantial things to show not only to Latin America but also to the world, Mr. President?

[Castro] All the summits are full of rhetoric, wherever they are held, especially this type of summit, right? They include outstanding figures from many places. They are not the everyday type of meeting such as those held in Europe. First of all, each summit is an event eagerly awaited by political leaders from the participating countries. This summit also has historical significance in that it is the first time Latin Americans met on our own. In the past, we met only when we were summoned by the United States. This phase began in Guadalajara, and this is the fourth summit.

I sincerely believe it represents a very important event inasmuch as heads of state met to discuss various topics. It has played an important role in the rapprochement between countries and country leaders. A rapprochement between countries cannot occur if there is no rapprochement between country leaders. All kinds of initiatives, practical initiatives, have been submitted—courses, cooperation, funds for specific purposes to benefit communities, for example, a fund to support the Indian population.

In other words, this type of specific thing has been approved but, above all, these summits are important for the future and represent an effort toward the integration of the Latin American peoples: economic integration, first of all, political rapprochement, and what will perhaps be political integration of Latin American countries in the future. People get to know one another through these summits; bilateral rapprochement has been sponsored through these summits; regional organizations like the Latin American Integration Association, the Southern Cone Common Market, the Andean Pact, and the Latin American Economic System have acquired importance and strength through these summits. I notice that progress has been achieved so these summits project themselves toward the future; they have become institutionalized, and I believe they will truly become an important factor in what has been so much discussed, the Latin American integration progress.

[Caballero] Mr. President, Cuba is always a mandatory topic at these summits—beginning with the one in Guadalajara and continuing with this one. Let us say it is one of the important topics. Some of your counterparts, fellow presidents from various countries—the presidents of Peru and Argentina, for example—disagree with your version, with your concept of democracy. They attack you, and they continue to insist on the need to democratize Cuba.

[Castro] Well, those concepts are completely different and, in general, are mostly ignorant of things in Cuba. For example, they ignore that we have a constitution that was discussed with all the people and that it was

approved by more than 95 percent of the country's citizens. It was our socialist Constitution with all its government and representation mechanisms. That Constitution functioned until 1975 [as heard]. Two years ago, we made some modifications to the Constitution, to perfect it. Many people believe there is not even a Constitution in Cuba.

[Caballero] Does the criticism from your counterparts bother you?

[Castro] No, man. I would say we are somewhat used to this. Rather than discuss the criticism from my counterparts—we can talk about that later—I would discuss the ignorance in which many live regarding what happens in Cuba. They do not know there are elections in Cuba and that the people's representatives are elected by the people. Although no one knows about this system, in my opinion, it is among the most modern and allows for the greatest participation of the people because the party is not the one that chooses the candidates; it is the citizens in each district. They appoint those who will choose the candidates. It is like having 1,000 parties because any district can propose any citizen, discuss his merits and virtues in assemblies, and elect him.

Those citizens later become candidates and they do it with the participation of mass organizations and representatives of the workers, the peasants, the students, women, and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. The mass organizations are composed of commissions that discuss and submit lists of candidates to delegates who are directly elected by the people in the neighborhoods, and the party does not intervene in that or decide that; so there is enormous freedom, more than any system known to date. Candidates must get over 50 percent of the votes.

The National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] is comprised this way. The ANPP is the one that elects the executive branch. In other words, the ANPP is the highest organization in the state and everyone is accountable to the ANPP. Candidates may be elected and they may be reelected, as a norm, as a principle. They must systematically submit reports to their voters. All this is unknown. If Cuba had no Constitution, there would be no state of law. Everyone's rights and duties are well defined.

We do not have a presidential government. You should analyze the Cuban president's authority. You will realize he has less than any president in Latin America. He does not even have the authority to appoint ministers. Ministers must be appointed by the Council of State. The Council of State is an institution elected by the ANPP for the periods when it is in recess. All the ministerial posts and other important posts, the posts of ambassadors, must be discussed by the Council of State before they are appointed, or before they are dismissed. I can assure you that the authority of the president of the Republic is minimal in our country. There is truly consensual leadership. That is why I am not president of the Republic; I am president of the Council of State.

[Caballero] Mr. President, regarding your last speech about your concept of democracy, which I respect, you will obviously ratify that concept and continue to implement it in Cuba.

[Castro] Of course. We are satisfied and our people are satisfied with the system we have established. I believe we do not [words indistinct]. I am criticized when I use a uniform, yet others want to make institutions uniform, make them exactly alike. Nevertheless, there is a great diversity of government institutions in the world.

[Caballero] By the way, how did you feel with a guayabera, showing up wearing a guayabera?

[Castro] I adapted quickly. All my life I have felt normal, calm, and satisfied to wear the same clothes I wore over 35 years ago when I was in the mountains. Many asked why I wore an uniform. I said: Because it is more comfortable and economical. I do not have to follow fashions; and I got so used to the uniform that I took it off only when I went to sleep. It is a campaign uniform, without adornment, without many attributes. It is as simple as can be. Therefore.. [pauses] we have another uniform, a formal uniform, but it is also very simple—pants, coat, and tie—and the rank insignia. I do not have many. I have the insignia of a commander. It is the rank I had when I landed with the Granma. It is the only rank I have had. I am the only one who has not been promoted. The only thing is that I was called commander in chief—that is how I always signed—and the title of commander in chief stuck. I always used the uniform. Well, when I go to the beach to swim, fish, or dive, I have to don shorts. That is the only time I do not wear a uniform.

[Caballero] Do you still swim a lot?

[Castro] Well, I swim....

[Caballero, interrupting] It is said you swim a lot. How many km do you swim nowadays?

[Castro, chuckling] Well, sometimes I swim more; sometimes I swim less—but I do it somewhat offshore.

[Caballero] How many km, more or less?

[Castro] A maximum of... [pauses] that was in 1979, on my birthday, on the victim—no, not victim, on the eve of the sixth summit. That time I swam slowly, not kicking like a frog, and I used a snorkel. Sometimes I used the backstroke; sometimes I used the breast stroke. I swam for eight hours—but that was in 1979. I have not dared repeat the effort since then, but I can swim—at a moderate pace, naturally—three or four km. I always swim farther offshore. I go to a buoy or a lighthouse. I cannot adapt to the beaches. I have done this for many years, for over 30 years.

[Caballero] Mr. President, going back to the issue of Cuba, what will happen with these people who entered the Belgian Embassy, the German Embassy, and the Chilean Consulate?

[Castro] This is sponsored from abroad. This type of incident can be used to generate publicity, to create a scandal. The main reason, however, is that these people want to immigrate. It is not a political problem but an immigration problem, a problem of economic immigration or of people who have relatives abroad who cannot get a U.S. visa. They do this to sponsor... [pauses] They may do this for different reasons, but, in my opinion, one of its main effects and one of its main goals is to sponsor illegal departures from the country and to sponsor incidents that give them political dividends. I want you to know that anyone who wants to leave our country may leave. Anyone of legal age can visit his relatives and return to the country. We are much more open about arrivals and departures to and from the country. We maintained certain restrictions for a long time, given U.S. plans, sabotage, and CIA activities. We have been quite open about immigration, however, as a rule, since the beginning of the revolution. We based ourselves on the principle that free men and women must voluntarily sustain socialism. We never prevented those who did not want socialism and who wanted to immigrate to another country from doing so. There were restrictions, however, more or less, until a number of years ago. We adopted the policy of allowing all those who wanted to leave to do so.

Nevertheless, will they not be granted political asylum, which is what they requested?

[Castro] No, because neither the Belgian Embassy nor the other European embassy is registered. There is no political asylum. Political asylum exists in Latin America and in Latin American embassies. They have the right to grant political asylum. They are the ones who decide what must be done. Anyone, however, who enters any embassy by force... [pauses] If the embassy has the right to grant political asylum, it will decide itself whether to order them to leave or to grant them asylum. They, however, do not want to do that because the people who show up there are not political refugees. This is not a matter of persecuted people seeking political asylum. These people want to immigrate. If they are not granted a visa through normal channels, they enter by force and create a scandal to pressure them into granting visas. We have established a principle in light of this: We give anyone in the country the right to leave; only those who enter an embassy by force will not receive permission to leave, regardless of the circumstances. Therefore, whoever enters an embassy by force... [pauses] We authorize him to leave, we adopt no measures against him, and we grant him full guarantees, but we also guarantee we will not give him a visa to leave—if he is ever granted a visa—because we must adopt some kind of measure to stop this and to avoid having to use violence and force. While we are dutybound to protect the embassies, we cannot use excessive violence. Instead, they are protected by the principle that whoever enters by force loses his right to leave the country. There would be no way to protect the embassies if we did not adopt that measure.

People in Cuba, Santo Domingo, and many other countries must leave and immigrate. They go to Mexico. Millions of Mexicans somehow manage to overcome the gigantic wall that the United States has built between Mexico and [word indistinct]. The people of Santo Domingo leave through many routes, but they are not given a permit if they enter the United States illegally. They are not automatically given a residence permit. The only citizens in the world who have the right to enter the United States, by any route, whoever they may be, are the Cubans. They are automatically given a residence permit. The only citizens who are given this are the Cubans.

That is a measure adopted at the time when more hate and hostility was felt against us. No Colombian could arrive on U.S. shores aboard a boat and immediately be granted asylum. No Dominican, Haitian, Mexican, no one from any Latin American country. Naturally, this encourages illegal departures [words indistinct] because, as soon as they arrive, they become publicity material and are received as heroes. That is the truth of the story about these illegal departures and the problems at the embassies.

[Caballero] Now that you mention the United States, do you believe President Clinton has opened the door a bit? Do you think he could meet with Commander Castro, with President Castro, and settle all this a bit?

[Castro] Nothing has been really said about this, and Clinton has not given the slightest indication that he is willing to follow that line and meet me. Quite the contrary, Clinton is thinking primarily about a second term. Since Florida is the fourth most important state in the union and Bush and Reagan campaigned there a lot, it is considered a republican state with the support of the immigrant community there. They do not know that a large part, an increasing part of that immigrant community opposes the blockade and the aggressive policy against Cuba. A minority group there, however, has power because they are the powerful; they have the money; they have the media; they exert pressure and lobby against Congress and against the administration.

Therefore, since Clinton wants to win the next election, he wants to curry favor with those people to get their votes and their (?advice). The Cuban issue has become a U.S. domestic policy issue, even though the number of Cubans who immigrated and who advocate an improvement of relations with Cuba has increased, is big, and is important now. Something else is also growing in the United States, namely the opinion of intellectuals, academicians, people in general, and businessmen who consider the blockade unjustified and obsolete. That movement is growing even in the United Nations. The United States is scandalously isolated every time the

blockade issue is discussed, and the vast majority of countries is manifestly opposed to the blockade against Cuba.

[Caballero] Part of the summit's document mentions this. A paragraph of the document.

[Castro] A paragraph of the document is dedicated to the issue of the blockade against Cuba.

[Caballero] Mr. President, do you believe that when President Cesar Gaviria goes to the OAS... [pauses] First of all, what is your reaction to President Gaviria's appointment? Do you think that once the Colombian president becomes OAS secretary general, the issue of Cuba will be brought up?

[Castro] This is a complex issue. First of all, we support Gaviria's appointment. We were happy that a person like him, with his capabilities, a well-known person, an experienced person, was appointed to the OAS. We cannot discuss his ideas because he has yet to assume the post. I imagine he will assume his post, reflect, and possibly adopt an initiative in that regard, but we are not exerting pressure in favor of this. Since we have been out of the OAS for such a long time, we see this issue of the OAS calmly; we do not see it as a priority issue for us. The priority is the struggle against the blockade.

The blockade should end; it is unfair, doubly unfair, doubly criminal at a time when the socialist bloc has disappeared, when the Soviet Union has disappeared, and when the Cold War is over. There was never justification for the blockade, much less at a time like this when it is much more harmful because we lost that point of support—meaning trade with the USSR and the socialist countries, the credits, the technology. Eighty percent of our trade was carried out with the socialist bloc; we received a tremendous blow. The blockade is causing us much more damage than it did when normal conditions existed concerning Cuba's relations with the USSR and the socialist bloc. Therefore, that blockade has no justification and our number-one priority is the struggle against that blockade.

[Caballero] Mr. President, speaking of bilateral issues, I would like to ask you something. When you previously came for a visit to Cartagena, many politicians here stated their views to RCN. They criticized you because you did not condemn the armed struggle that unfortunately continues in our country.

[Castro] As a rule, I do not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries. We should not meddle, and that is why we have not adopted policies or issued statements in connection with internal affairs. We are determined to follow that guideline regardless of criticism because we believe our position is fair. Therefore, it is a problem that must be solved by each country. Those are political problems that should be solved by each country.

[Caballero] In fact, President Castro, one of the candidates with the best chance of winning on Sunday, Andres Pastrana, said it will be necessary to revise relations with you because he does not think they should exist.

[Castro] I believe it would be a mistake to recant concerning relations that have been developed between the Cuban and Colombian people and Governments. I think that whoever wins in the elections should follow that guideline because we have things in common, such as the summit; we have other issues of common interest; we cooperate within the United Nations; and we have also played an important, active role concerning Colombia's election for hosting the next nonaligned countries' summit. That is an extremely important step that involves not only some Latin American countries, but also most of the African countries and almost all of the Third World countries, with which we have excellent relations.

It would not be possible to suddenly adopt a hostile policy toward Cuba, from an important post within the nonaligned countries' movement because it would be very detrimental to the movement. We are founding members of the movement; we have a long history within the movement; and we have a large number of friends. We suppose they would not appreciate any hostility toward Cuba or any decision to recant, in the relations between Cuba and Colombia; so I hope whoever becomes president will bear in mind all those factors and continue to work in favor of relations that are going along excellently.

Moreover, we have no right to meddle in the elections or support any party because, well, the people should decide which candidate should be elected, which candidate should be given their vote of confidence. We hope this does not imply a change in strategic issues because it would be tantamount to turning back the wheels of history.

[Caballero] Mr. President, this thing they say... [pauses] For example, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Argentine President Carlos Menem called you quote, a dinosaur, and your strategy dinosaurian, unquote. What is your opinion?

[Castro—laughs] They told me that. Generally, when they speak with me, they do it nicely, especially Menem. In this meeting, we talked a lot; we discussed many topics in which we have common interests. I thought he was very nice. They have their own political ideas and, so far as epithets are concerned, everyone has heard—even I have heard—about the dinosaur of capitalism. [laughs] I would say this also applies to liberalism. I do not believe it solves the world's problems. I am not a neoliberal. I believe in the future; I believe in changes in the future; I believe in a more noble, generous, supportive, egalitarian world.

I said I became a socialist before I read Karl Marx. I was what you would call a utopic socialist. Later, when I read Marx, I had my mind prepared to be conquered by a scientific concept of history, a scientific economic concept. The idea about an egalitarian, just society awoke

my sympathies. That attracted me the most. I was attracted by Marx's idea, the principle that the state should disappear one day. I say true democracy cannot exist where there is no equality, where there is no brotherhood, where some people are immensely rich and others are immensely poor. The sine qua non condition of true democracy should be equality and brotherhood among men, and equal opportunities.

I believe the best formula ever invented—even if no one has been able to implement it yet, even if the world has yet to go in that direction—is the formula in which each human being works according to his capabilities and receives according to his needs. That is the most noble thing ever written. In fact, that is what most closely resembles the Christian sermons. I say that one cannot talk about democracy when there is a beggar beside a millionaire. Equality is essential. Theoreticians of the liberal, democratic doctrines stated three principles for their famous French Revolution—liberty, equality, and fraternity.

You do not see this prevail in the world. I, however, see that the masses are becoming increasingly aware of social justice, equality, and democracy. Democracy has gone through various phases. The first was the Greek democracy. It was a democracy in which a few people had all the rights and the rest had no rights. Then there is the case of Athens, which was considered a model of democracy even though there were 30,000 free citizens and 70,000 slaves. I think the democracy of Athens still prevails in some countries of the Third World, in Latin America—a vast majority of extremely poor people and a small minority of rich people. Just imagine, in Latin America....

[Caballero, interupting] Excuse me a moment. I must [words indistinct].

[Castro] Just imagine....

[Caballero, interrupting] Mr. President, we were talking about Athens.

[Castro] We were talking about Athens. I was telling you there were 30,000 free citizens and 70,000 slaves. It was a model democracy. Democracy has achieved progress throughout history, in many countries. There is no slavery, at least a form of slavery, because there is also actual slavery. For example, I said there are republics in Latin America where it seems they still have Athens' democracy, a vast majority of extremely poor people... [pauses] There are 270 million poor people in this hemisphere and our Latin American region is the region of the world with the worst distribution of land. It is the world's region with the worst distribution of income, to such an extreme that 40 percent of the poorest people have 10 percent of the income and 20 percent of the rich have up to 60 percent of the income. There is no other region in the world with these vast economic and social differences within one society. That is why all these obstacles must be overcome before we can talk about full democracy. Millions die, approximately 1 million children under the age of 15 die when they could survive. It is truly a slaughter [words indistinct]. When that reality exists and prevails, we cannot talk about full democracy.

[Caballero] Mr. President, to conclude the exclusive interview you have so kindly granted to RCN, it is being said that you are sick, that you are tired. Are you tired? Do you feel tired of power?

[Castro] I do not have the energy I had when I was 20, 22, or 26, like the first time I went to Colombia and the great rebellion broke out in Santa Fe de Bogota. I was a young student and was always with the students, so I also became involved. I had more energy then—even at 30, 40, or 50—than I do now. But I still have some energy, enough to let me work 15, 16, or 17 hours sometimes. This does not mean I work like that every day. Fortunately, work is very well distributed in our country and there are many new people, many young people, with whom we share the work. This allows me to adjust my activities to suit the energy level that I have at my age. Nevertheless, I can attend a summit like this. I can work the number of hours I worked yesterday, beginning very early and ending at 0200. Yesterday, we worked 12... [pauses] 14... [pauses] It was 19 hours.

[Caballero] Fidel will be....

[Castro, interrupting] I slept three days... [pauses] three hours the first day; five hours the second day—I got even; two and one half hours last night. The rest of the time has been spent on commitments and activities.

[Caballero] This means Fidel will be around for a long time.

[Castro] Well, I hope Fidel is around for a long time, but not Fidel with the same amount of work, the same responsibilities and obligations. They should give me a chance to....

[Caballero—interrupting] Vacations?

[Fidel] Vacations. A long vacation. I should be given the opportunity to retire at an appropriate time. This should not happen during difficult times, for anyone who pulls back during difficult times looks like a deserter. I am afraid of looking like a deserter.

[Caballero] Where would you like to rest?

[Castro] Well, I would very much like to read, to have free time to read and chat.

[Caballero] Always in Cuba?

[Castro] Always in Cuba.

[Caballero] Until you die.

[Castro] Until I die. I would like the hole to be dug in a small plot of land there and to be able to rest there, the eternal rest which few people desire but which nature has imposed on us all.

[Caballero] Mr. President, you have been very kind. Thank you again on behalf of RCN of Colombia.

[Castro] It was a pleasure for me to answer your questions.

[Caballero] You are very kind. Good-bye.

Views Destroying Walls of 'Gigantic Jericho'

FL1806020794 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "NTV" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro returned to Havana after completing his activities in Cartagena, Colombia, during the Fourth Ibero-American Summit. Just hours before his departure, Fidel commented to journalists who were covering the summit on his impressions of the event.

[Reporter] "Commander, Cuba has been present at the four summits. What has Cuba's contribution been in these summits and how have these summits benefited Cuba?"

[Castro] "Well, I would say that Cuba has made a contribution with its very presence. Its presence there is something that is exceptional, new, and unprecedented. For the first time, there was no exclusion. Mexico had much to do with that as well as our other important Latin American friends. Therefore, Cuba's presence gives the summit more seriousness and dignity because the cowardly exclusion is no longer committed."

Fidel's last hours in Cartagena were marked by an emotional encounter with Colombian solidarity groups, which motivated comments by the Cuban president on continental integration.

[Castro] "I would also say that men and women like you around the world are going to destroy the walls of that gigantic Jericho that tries to defeat and crush Cuba and the Cuban Revolution, and that tries to crush the brotherhood and union among all our peoples."

Foreign Minister's Cartagena News Conference

FL1706154694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jun 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina with unidentified domestic correspondents in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; date not given; from the "Exclusive" newscast; first paragraph announcer-read introduction—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has told Cuban correspondents at the fourth Ibero-American summit that Cuba believes that it is most important for the summit to maintain unity, validity, and continuity. Robaina also stressed the importance of the summit and contacts with other Ibero-American delegations:

[Robaina] We have highly diverse views, as President Fidel clearly explained last night. We have no problem with discussing democracy and human rights. Cuba has much to say about democracy and human rights. There are many points of view. If this is discussed at a closed door meeting, we will make our point at a closed door meeting no matter the subject. Cuba has its own opinions and views.

[Correspondent] Yet, that discussion has wasted time that could have been spent on the summit's main issues.

¡Robaina] It is not a matter of wasting time that could have been spent on other issues. Actually, an overloaded agenda could be wasting the time that could be spent on other issues. In that sense, the summit has a broader agenda.

No other summit matches this one. Just as we make an effort to [word indistinct] Fidel's contacts with different presidents—such as the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Spain, Colombia, and Bolivia—as well as the other presidents who are also in the process of bilateral discussions. The foreign ministries' technical teams, as well as the foreign ministers, are working hard.

The first two sections of the final draft of the final document were completed recently. This request, which it now seems will not be necessary to include, is currently the only component of this draft. The document is expected to be approved this afternoon.

When so many presidents gather for such an important meeting, it is often the case that we do not have enough time to get to everything.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do you think the paragraph on the U.S. blockade against Cuba that was included in the final document will be altered during the afternoon session?

[Robaina] I do not want to get ahead of myself. That paragraph has already gone through many processes. I can say that it is one paragraph that was approved with the least resistance. That paragraph already exceeds what was accomplished in Cartagena...[pauses] in Salvador-Bahia.

Participants were asked if they objected to any of the document's points before it was presented to the Colombian Foreign Ministry for completion. Not one country objected to that particular paragraph. That paragraph-...[pauses] The meeting, regardless of yesterday's [words indistinct], is to improve. Some may even be astonished that we approved the paragraph and that [word indistinct] the word blockade does not appear because there seemed to be a problem with its definition.

Some of the people who spoke yesterday have as strong an opinion on this matter as we do. The great majority of those present voted in favor of Cuba at the UN General

Assembly on something that is much more significant than this paragraph. Therefore, I do not think this will mean anything to us. The rest of the proposals are all included in the document.

The most important thing was for us to have the opportunity to express our views during the time allotted to us and to have opinions and points of view on issues that would make way for a debate and take advantage of the Colombian Government's proposal of turning this meeting into a real debate rather than the reading of speeches brought from outside.

[Correspondent] We have heard many opinions by foreign ministers on yesterday's [word indistinct] by the commander.

[Robaina] Yes, and I believe that you were more surprised than we were. There are many opinions. Undoubtedly, when one explains positions...[pauses] For example, I have found many people who say that issues were brought to the table once and for all, as they should be. I believe there are those who do not share his views because they may not feel at liberty, perhaps, to express the things that our president has expressed. Undoubtedly, they might be concerned.

Nevertheless, Cuba did not come for the other 22 participants to share its views unanimously. Cuba has come so that its point of view is included in the analysis. We have all the authority, morale, history—especially our president—to express our points of view clearly and plainly. That is very important to me.

Many people congratulated the Cuban delegation and Fidel last night for having brought the issues to the table. We will have to get used to the fact that some will like what we say while others will not.

We do not say things just to get others to agree. We express our positions and principles. That is why they have been expressed with strength. Several people have approached Fidel to congratulate him on his actions and to say...[pauses] The best indicator was the room filling up so quickly, unlike anything else that had happened during the day. There was a special silence when our president expressed his views.

It is important that you realize that harsh, strong, and firm statements such as those will not have unanimous backing from those who do not want to commit to what we are discussing. We should not doubt this because the absence of opinions does not necessarily mean that they disagree. It could also mean that they prefer not to be publicly sympathetic in light of other types of pressure. Many public statements have been made on Cuba's participation in the summit despite all of this.

[Correspondent] Does the final document include the economic and trade agreements reached at the summit?

[Robaina] The final document includes an important part of our recommendations. It still does not constitute a true platform for the integration that should follow. It is unrealistic to think that the potential for economic integration that we see in America can be met during just one summit. Today, the Cuban delegation will be able to present its views on Cuban reality, how investments are progressing, and how we are less united and less integrated than ever today. That is the phenomenon that we face. We will not achieve this kind of integration with one strong document. We can achieve a stronger integration if all the presidents and delegations leave here willing to put these things into action.

[Correspondent] Speaking of these small meetings, perhaps Cuba can enter the Group of Three easier than any of the other groups?

[Robaina] Cuba did not come—people have constantly been asking me this in the halls—to seek membership in the OAS or any other specific regional or subregional group. The fact that we did not come for that purpose, however, does not mean that we are excluded. We have not closed the door on any possibility. Because we do not talk as much about [words indistinct]. We wish Latin America had a true [word indistinct]. That is what we want to accomplish. Cuba has not closed the door on any type of bilateral review with any country, even though at this moment and in midst of such a complex program you can understand that we have other priorities.

Economic advancement will allow us to enter into any group based on the principles that we respect, love, and defend. Cuba wanted...[pauses] That's why we were dissatisfied last night. How is it possible for such a meeting to be called and for Latin America not to have a common position with or without Cuba? Once again, this demonstrates how, before this meeting, which we salute and respect, we put aside our participation and our particular interests as a country.

Many have called to express their satisfaction with Fidel saying that he salutes the summit with very good intentions and that he respects the rights of others to have their own opinions, as some do. This is all that is needed to discuss true dialogue, unlike what the press, which has been following us around the hallways, has said, namely that we come here to express our views and do not accept contradicting views. That is not true. We accept and listen to anything they want to say. They, however, must listen to us as well. That is the phenomenon. Some began talking and thought that no one would refute those views. Of course not. We spoke yesterday, and we may have to speak today.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, I just want to point out that everyone praised Fidel at yesterday's news conference. My question is: Has anyone said anything about the U.S. observers at the summit?

[Robaina] The matter has not been discussed. We should not have to address [deshacer] an issue that torments us. U.S. observers have been mentioned basically because they are preparing the famous summit. The observers will take with them what we think of the summit. In other words, why make an issue of this? In this way, no

one has to bring them Cuba's message on this summit being unnecessary. Cuba is not afraid. They are here primarily to learn about how to organize a summit. It seems that this is motivating their presence. I am sure they have a positive impression of what has taken place here.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, the media has been making a great deal about the commander's attire.

[Robaina] He was asked about this in public yesterday. I do not believe...[pauses] This generates all the speculation on whether it is a new style or if it is the beginning of something new. Let there be no doubt: He will continue wearing his olive green attire. The fact of the matter is that we are honoring the summit organizers' request despite response to the uniform being positive everywhere, including Cuba. We received a written request for the presidents to dress informally, in a guayavera or shirt. Our president honored the request, proving even more that he is not an obstinate man when it comes to history, a promise, or the olive green uniform. The host country requested informal dress, and Fidel came informal.

It was big news. Rest assured that he did not do it to make news and that [words indistinct] in olive green. Although this left a magnificent impression on Havana, let us not get carried away. Some have said that it marks the beginning of the end. If changing Cuba were as easy as changing into a guayavera, we would have sewn many guayaveras a long time ago.

[Correspondent] The guayavera is a symbol of Cubanism.

[Robaina] Yes, but it is superficial. To those who say that Fidel is incapable of this or that, there you have it. This also demonstrates Fidel's ability to adapt to the place, the moment, and the conditions. Some said this was impossible. The people in Havana with whom I was talking say they are traumatized by the guayavera. They cannot wait to see if he will wear the guayavera in Havana. That is a phenomenon. He is wearing a guayavera and blue slacks today. Let us not start describing his socks, etc...[laughs]

[Correspondent] How did Cuba receive Bolivia's statements following the commander's address?

[Robaina] Many expressed satisfaction with Fidel's address. Brazilian President Itamar Franco and many others expressed satisfaction. Fidel's statements were obviously not in agreement with some of the addresses presented there. If you review past summits, you can see that many others begin to publicly express themselves in favor of Cuba, in addition to those who are concerned and sympathetic toward Cuba. Even though we are not where we would like to be at the moment, the number of people who dare speak out is much higher than in past years.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct].

[Robaina] Regarding diplomatic relations with Honduras, I must point out that we do not have diplomatic relations with three or four of the countries that are present. Nevertheless, the absence of formal diplomatic relations does not keep us from having contacts that allow us to talk about our relations even if they are not diplomatic.

I wish to stress that Cuba is neither preoccupied nor obsessed nor [words indistinct] steps that have been taken. We express this to everyone. President Castro himself expressed that to President Reina today. We do not want the Honduran people to feel any pressure from Cuba to establish diplomatic relations because we already communicate with them. Honduras must determine when conditions are appropriate because on our side there are no conditions.

Mexican Daily Interviews Alarcon on Summit

PA1906041794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 52

[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, by special correspondents Blanche Petrich, Josexto Zaldua, and Emilio Lomas at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias on 14 June]

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 15 Jun—Not as good as Guadalajara in 1991, but not as bad, either. Evaluating Cuba's performance at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], concluded that "our satisfaction is greater" because we were able to overcome more significant threats than before.

One threat to Cuban diplomacy is the shadow cast by the Clinton administration's initiative to hold a hemispheric summit in Miami at the end of this year with all the continent's heads of state except Cuba's.

On this occasion, the threat took the name and shape of a woman, Harriet Babbitt, U.S. ambassador to the OAS, who yesterday appeared in the president's session hall sitting very seriously beside Rosario Green, Mexican under secretary to the United Nations. According to Alarcon, Babbitt was able to "slip in," but her presence neither annoyed nor cheered the Cubans. "Just as long as she knows how to conduct herself," he commented sarcastically.

Today there was another noteworthy person; an unidentified diplomat, but one whom everyone identifies as high-ranking and responsible for organizing the "other" meeting in Miami. The uneasiness felt by many heads of state was noticeable since the diplomat, along with Ambassador Babbitt, was wearing a badge on his lapel that gave him access to the most restricted areas, where today only heads of state and their ministers were free to

go. The badge is only given to very high-ranking officials. "Prerogatives of the host," an uncomfortable diplomat resigned himself.

Ricardo Alarcon, who has been beside Fidel Castro since the first Ibero-American summit, granted an interview and stressed that there was neither more nor less tension prior to and following the unexpected speech by the Cuban president during the final minutes of yesterday's plenary session. Alarcon also denies that Castro's complaints about the presidents' compliant position toward the U.S. blockade were "out of place."

Alarcon believes that those heads of state who alluded to Cuba's internal system were out of place and he said they should keep in mind "the principle of national sovereignty at least once in a while." That oversight was indeed "an unfortunate slip."

Alarcon added that the takeover of diplomatic missions in Havana over the past few days by groups of Cubans demanding visas to leave the island is on the verge of becoming a "daily practice," that could even signal the end of the diplomatic system unless governments clearly stipulate that this is not a means of obtaining travel documents and the United States ceases to encourage the illegal departure of Cubans.

[LA JORNADA] President Fidel Castro's unscheduled statements caused an uproar yesterday afternoon...

[Alarcon] I would not say that it was outside the agenda. I think it was necessary for a country that was mentioned several times during this meeting to say something about that. In fact, President Itamar Franco, speaking for the second time, said it was necessary that he clarify his position with respect to the issue mentioned by other speakers. Their statements were indeed outside the agenda because they made comments that they considered necessary but which were inappropriate for an international conference.

[LA JORNADA] Sovereignty is perhaps the oldest principle of international law in Latin America and should be remembered at least now and then. That principle is truly sacred on this continent. Speaking outside the agenda constitutes a serious slip because this sacred principle is overlooked.

[Alarcon] The international community is inclined to deal with internal issues such as democracy, crime, drug trafficking, multilateral diplomatic actions...

The idea of democracy as such comes from a democratic concept called plurality, but lately there have been attempts to link the idea of democracy with certain events [torneos], appearances, and formalities. In the Ibero-American community, we repeat daily that we share a common language. Let us look in the dictionary for a definition of democracy. If memory serves me correctly, the academy describes democracy as a political system in which the people participate. It does not say it is a political system that every now and then must change colors or pay millions for television advertisements to sell candidates as if they were toothpaste.

[LA JORNADA] What is Harriet Babbitt, U.S. ambassador to the OAS, doing here? How do you assess that? It is the first time the United States has attended an Ibero-American summit meeting.

[Alarcon] I imagine that she slipped in because she has no right to be here.

[LA JORNADA] And nobody told her so?

[Alarcon] As far as I know, there was no meeting to discuss whether observer status would be granted to a country that is not Ibero-American. I thought of a whole list of countries more appropriate to attend that are not doing so. I am talking about other Portuguese-speaking countries or countries that speak neither Spanish nor Portuguese but which are Latin American as they are part of our history, such as Haiti or Jamaica.

[LA JORNADA] Is her presence healthy?

[Alarcon] It is all the same to me. I just want her to behave properly and not make any noise. She is involved in another conference, the orientation of which could contradict the orientation of this conference.

[LA JORNADA] Could the Miami summit in December interfere with the course of this Ibero-American summit? What could this entail for Cuba?

[Alarcon] It is a summit with particular characteristics. There is no preparatory work, no program, and no discussion topics. It seems to be something for fortune-tellers. It should definitely be a source of great concern.

[LA JORNADA] Certain people, President Cesar Gaviria and Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, for example, have established a certain relationship between the changes being demanded of Cuba and the fact that Fidel donned a guayabera instead of his military uniform. There has been, let us say, a lot of mental masturbation to give meaning to your guayabera. What is your opinion on Fidel Castro's guayabera?

[Alarcon] We learned that informal clothing would be worn here. Formal wear in Cuba is a shirt and tie. Informal for some is a short-sleeved shirt. For us, it is a guayabera. It is the national dress. As for the changes, some people insist that we must change to look more like a democracy. When one really believes in democracy, one must believe in plurality above all and in diversity to ensure that each country's people decides their own fate. The mental masturbation you mentioned is a reflection of manipulation.

[LA JORNADA] What does the successive occupation of diplomatic missions in Havana suggest to you?

[Alarcon] It is a reflection of the U.S. manipulation of emigration. The people occupying those diplomatic missions do not want to go to Antwerp or Brussels.

The United States is the only country that has two immigration laws; one for the world and the other, the adjustment law, which gives priority to Cuban citizens who arrive in their territory claiming to be politically persecuted in order to block the legal entry of those who wish to emigrate. This law simultaneously promotes illegal departures. The adjustment law for Cubans will be 30 years old. It dates back to 1966. I do not know what would happen in another country if there were a similar law for them.

Another suggestion is that a generalization of actions such as this one would bring about disaster. There are millions of potential economic emigres in the world. A generalization would mark the end of the diplomatic system, the law of the jungle would prevail.

[LA JORNADA] Three missions were occupied in past days; the Belgian, German, and Chilean Consulates. Could this become widespread?

[Alarcon] We can solve this problem in a civilized manner. We have said that the people who violated diplomatic missions will not be punished. Those embassies must recognize that this is no means to travel to those countries. If we do not make this clear, this could indeed become normal practice. This will not end as long as the United States continues to implement its immigration policy. Part of the solution is to convince these people to use peaceful means. The other part is to allow them to emigrate normally if they wish to do so

Chile Asks Asylum Seekers To Leave Peacefully

PA1706203194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1929 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 17 Jun (DPA)—Today, Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said Chile is asking the eight Cubans who occupied the Chilean Consulate in Havana last Wednesday to leave the mission peacefully.

The foreign minister said they have received assurances from the Cuban Government that no reprisals will be taken against the eight persons, including a woman and a 12-year-old child whose parents are not in the group. Cuba reiterated to Chilean authorities that it does not accept the forceful entry into diplomatic missions as a form of pressure to obtain a visa to leave the country, the foreign minister added.

Figueroa noted that Cuban President Fidel Castro and Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina assured them that once the people had left the embassy, they could request whatever visas they wished. Since it involves a consulate, Chile cannot grant them asylum, rather "humanitarian refuge," Figueroa said, noting that the topic is being discussed simultaneously with the occupiers and the Cuban Government.

Chile and Cuba severed diplomatic relations following the 11 September 1973 military coup and resumed ties at the consular level as of 1991.

Figueroa explained that thus far, relations between the two nations "are adequate," and Chile is not demanding that political changes occur on the island as a condition for the establishment of diplomatic ties, but that it is studying the situation. "We have never established conditions at any time," the foreign minister stated, adding that his Cuban colleague Roberto Robaina will visit Chile in August. "I hope that before he arrives, the topic (of the consulate occupants) will be resolved," he said.

Foreign Minister Discusses Relations

PA1806142494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Report by the "Information Service" newscast]

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa has stated that his country has not set political conditions for reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cuba at the embassy level while consular links continue to increase as a result of tourism, investment, and trade. Figueroa recalled that he had invited Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to visit Chile this coming August.

With respect to the decision by eight Cubans to forcibly remain inside the Chilean Consulate in Havana, the minister stated that the important issue is to observe international law. He also reiterated that Cuba does not condone the forceful occupation of diplomatic missions as a mechanism to leave the country.

Figueroa stressed that the Cuban authorities had guaranteed that there would be no reprisals against those who voluntarily decide to leave the Chilean Consulate and begin normal procedures to leave the country.

Eight Leave Belgian Ambassador's Residence

PA1806235894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Jun (AFP)—Cuban police sources reported that at least eight of the 118 Cuban refugees who have been at the Belgian ambassador's residence in Havana since 18 May left this afternoon. The same sources said that most of those who left were women and children.

Reporters near the residence verified that there was more movement than usual of diplomatic vehicles, but they were unable to determine the exact number of people leaving the residence.

Another 21 persons have taken refuge at the German Embassy ,and eight are at the Chilean Consulate, both located in the same neighborhood of Miramar. These people hope to obtain political asylum abroad.

Embassy Occupants Not To Be Allowed To Leave Island

PA1906162294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1529 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 19 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Foreign Ministry has announced that the government "categorically" confirmed today that it will deny all persons who have forcefully entered a diplomatic mission permission to leave the island.

A Foreign Ministry note published in the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE reports that the refusal will be maintained "even if they leave the embassy. No exception will be made."

The note reported that on 28 May more than 100 people entered the residence of the Belgian ambassador, on 13 June, 20 people broke into the German Embassy compound in a vehicle, and on 15 June, nine people entered the Chilean Consulate.

Lage: Embassy Entries 'Provocation by Enemies'

PA1906141594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Madrid, 19 Jun (AFP)—The entry by approximately 150 Cubans into three embassies in Havana is a "provocation by enemies" of Cuba who could "have some sort of organization in the country." This was said to EL PAIS, a Spanish daily, by Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the Council of Ministers and a close aide of Fidel Castro.

Lage, a 42-year-old pediatrician, recalls that Cuba grants exit permits to whoever wants to travel and notes that "no one involved in this type of incident can leave the country." The only solution is for the refugees in the embassies "to leave with our guarantees that there will be no reprisals against them," he added.

Lage, who is also one of the persons responsible for Cuban economic reforms, defended the "socialist model" and the "fundamental" role of a planned economy, but did not reject "openings to the private initiative" or "private work" in certain sectors. He noted Cuba's encouragement of tourism and foreign investments (an example of which is the sale of 49 percent of the shares of the telephone company to a Mexican enterprise) and its transformation of state farms into cooperatives.

Regarding an eventual political change, Lage was blunt: "Cuba's problems are of an economic nature, and the solutions we need are of an economic nature." "It is possible" to improve the political system, "but not through elections aimed at producing a multiparty system," he said.

Regarding speculation that some day he could succeed Fidel Castro, he said: "I do not believe I am the right person." "Besides," he explained, "here there is someone who is second in command in the country's leadership; that is Raul Castro. Castro's replacement is thus already known."

Mexican Firms Interested in Using Refinery

PA1706225094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1904 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 17 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Juan Fleites Melo, director of the state-owned Cuba Petroleum [CUPET] enterprise, confirmed here today that the enterprise has been talking with Mexpetrol, a privately-owned Mexican consortium, about using a Cuban refinery. Fleites said a letter of intent was signed "recently" by CUPET and Mexican enterprises for the latter to use the Cienfuegos refinery, located 336 km southeast from Havana.

Speaking for GRANMA INTERNATIONAL, the official declined to mention the investment required to activate this facility, which is capable of refining 21 million barrels of crude oil annually.

Although an agreement with Russia, the largest of the former Soviet republics, guarantees an annual exchange of 17.5 million barrels of oil for one million tons of sugar, Cuba requires at least 42 million barrels of oil per year.

The Cienfuegos refinery is one of the last projects built by the now defunct Soviet Union. Three years ago, Cuba began negotiating with several countries to reactivate the plant.

Fleites said foreign firms have invested approximately $120 million prospecting for oil in Cuba and that 16 of the Cuban territory's 33 blocks have been auctioned off in international risk contracts.

CUPET is associated with Canada's CNW and Talisman firms; France's Total and Geopetrol; the UK's Premier and British Borneo; and Sweden's Taurus.

According to Fleites, the discovery of oil in the Bay of Cardenas in Matanzas Province in western Cuba "confirms the presence of hydrocarbons in the country."

Private Sector To Purchase Cuban Debt

PA1906200394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2019 GMT 13 Jun 94

[By Raquel Pineda]

[Text] Havana, 13 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican private sector will purchase Cuba's debt with Mexico through the issuance of "swaps," Enrique Vilatela, director of the National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomext), said here today.

In an interview, Vilatela explained that the negotiation would take place through the issuance of swaps (debt bonds) so that Mexican businessmen can purchase Cuban enterprises' assets. The Bancomext director, who

is accompanying Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari during his state visit, said the solution to the island's debt with Mexico will be through refinancing the debt. He pointed out that the appropriate institutions in both countries must reach an agreement on refinancing the debt and bond issuance.

Up until the end of 1993, Cuba's debt with Mexico was $313.4 million, of which $192.7 million was already overdue. The Cuban debt was refinanced in 1982, 1986, 1989, and 1991, which was the last time. The last refinancing of the debt was declared unfulfilled six months later because of Cuba's economic problems and because the mechanism that was established refinanced the debt for only four years.

Luis German Carcoba, president of the Mexican Business Coordinating Council, confirmed the decision to invest in Cuba and added that textile and soft drink projects, among others, are already being implemented. Carcoba, who is also accompanying the Mexican president on his six-hour tour to this nation, said, however, that in the meeting held by the presidents and the trade delegations of Mexico and Cuba, no specific agreements are expected.

The Mexican businesses that plan to make investments in Cuba are Grupo Infra de Gases y Equipos, Industrias Unidas de Telefonia de Larga Distancia, and Buffete Industrial, with modernization projects for 20 hotels in this city.

Also participating were Cemex, which has a cement plant here; Domeq, which will negotiate the importation of Cuban rum to Mexico; Telecomunicaciones Internacionales de Mexico, founder of Cubacel; Incorporacion Internacional Comercial, which exports Mexican beer; and Grupo Dsc, which is a hotel business.

Lage Rejects Multiparty System, Embassy Occupations

PA1906150894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Jun 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuba's problems are economic, and the solutions we need are of an economic nature. This is why the reforms are made within our political system without being associated with any transformation, said Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the Cuban Council of Ministers, during an interview published today in the Spanish daily EL PAIS.

Lage indicated that it is possible to improve the Cuban political system, however, not through elections in a multiparty system. The Cuban leader explained that the Caribbean nation is being flexible in its economic model and is willing to make the necessary changes, but not by moving toward capitalism, rather by consolidating an efficient socialist economy.

When questioned about groups of Cubans who are in the Belgium and German embassies and the Chilean consulate here in Havana, Carlos Lage said that occupying a diplomatic mission is not the way to leave Cuba because the country grants permits to whoever requests them. Moreover, he reiterated that the sole solution to the conflict is for those people to leave the buildings they are occupying with the government's guarantee that there will be no reprisals against them.

PRC Ambassador Visits Guantanamo Province

FL1806021294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] On 17 June, PRC Ambassador to Cuba Xu Yicong and several Embassy staff members paid an official visit to Guantanamo Province. Upon his arrival in this city, Xu Yicong was extensively briefed by Juan Carlos Robinson, member of the central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and first secretary of the party in the province, on social and economic developments in the province. Robinson informed Xu Yicong of the efforts that the population is making to eliminate, as soon as possible, the consequences of the May rains, which caused damages estimated at 90 million pesos.

Xu Yicong expressed satisfaction with his visit to Guantanamo and highlighted the similarity of ideas, principles, and paths chosen by the peoples of Cuba and of China to build socialism, aside from the different characteristics of the two countries.

Bahrain Establishes Diplomatic Relations

FL1806154894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Cuba and Bahrain have signed a document establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The document also notes an interest in strengthening friendly and cooperative relations in different areas of interest. The document adds: This cooperation will be based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in the two countries' internal affairs, and the pledge to fulfill the UN goals and principles for consolidating international peace and security. The document was signed by Raul Barzaga, director of the Foreign Ministry's North Africa and Middle East Directorate, and (Raboul Rahman Salman Hadj), director of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry's international affairs.

Steel Industry, Slovak Firm Build Mopeds for Tourism

FL1706113294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Cuban steel industry has been assembling mopeds since April, in cooperation with Slovakia's (Howritz) firm. The national news agency reports that the mopeds will be earmarked for exportation and tourism and will eventually be assigned to state organizations. A total of 450 mopeds have been assembled to date. These mopeds can reach a maximum speed of between 40 and 50 km per hour.

Council of Ministers Vice President Attends Ceremony

FL1706174294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Leonel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has attended the signing ceremony of the statutes of the international Rus-Cuba association. The association's goal is to promote cooperation in the production and financial sectors and science and technology.

Machado Visits 12 UBPC's in Granma Province

FL1606235994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has conducted a two-day visit to 12 Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] in Granma Province. During the visit, he observed the work being done in the province to repair damages caused by heavy rains in May. Alfredo Enriquez Pina, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the provincial committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, accompanied Machado.

At the end of the visit, Machado Ventura stressed the importance of strengthening the workers' and relatives' self-sufficiency efforts in the UBPC's. He pointed out that this is an essential endeavor to boost the workers' spirits as well as to improve work attendance and the use of human and material resources.

Machado Ventura praised the positive changes in the cattle and sugarcane units visited in Granma, in terms of production and work organization, while criticizing low yields in the production of tubers and vegetables.

Sugar Vice Minister Comments on Eastern Harvest

FL1706023194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] A significant number of mills are still grinding sugarcane in Cuba, although the largest number of them are concentrated in the eastern region where the greatest amount of raw material can be found. The complexes are still making an enormous effort in the sugar harvest despite the characteristics proper to the month of June: a decrease in the amount of sugarcane, intense heat, and the raw material being widely spread out, in some areas.

Raul Trujillo, first vice minister of the Sugar Industry, informed Radio Reloj that one of the provinces that is still working hard is Pinar del Rio. The Harlem and Manuel Sandino complexes have been reinforced by manual canecutting brigades from Havana. Trujillo pointed out that in Sancti Spiritus, the Uruguay sugarcane complex, the largest complex in Cuba, is making a final effort to deliver sugar, aided by the sugarcane received from Ciego de Avila Province.

Committee Details Charges Against Self-Employed Workers

FL1706172094 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Inspectors from nine Havana administrative councils have fined over 300 self-employed workers for violations and irregularities in exercising this type of work. Provinicial labor committee figures indicate that 26,388 inspections had been conducted by the end of May in the 133 self-employment categories approved by the provincial administrative councils. Of the 555 fines, over 300 were issued against people who do unauthorized work and 60 people who render services but were not registered with the municipality. Another group was issued fines for using middlemen or selling products in areas prohibited by the city's regulations. The labor committee also revoked the licenses of over 350 repeat offenders and has confiscated merchandise, mainly snacks and agricultural products, from approximately 60 people.

Manuel Fernandez, director of labor and social security in Havana, said the fines total over 450,000 pesos and affirmed that strict controls will be maintained. Fernandez also said that over 40,000 people are registered for self-employment work in Havana.

Prosecutor's Spokesman on Fight Against 'Moneybags'

FL1706184394 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The confiscation of the moneybags' [maceta] goods and assets resulting from ill-gotten wealth is a coordinated and effective effort being conducted by the General Attorney's Office and its provincial and municipal branches to fight corruption in our society. To conduct this systematic work, prosecutors first make an inventory of the goods in the possession of the person under investigation and check it against real income. Those goods without official documentation are held until the owner proves their legality. The Finance and

Prices Ministry is in charge of issuing confiscation papers and transferring the goods to the state.

We will hear about the case of another one of these moneybags who resorted to illegal wealth to satisfy disproportionate material cravings. Here is Enrique Valdez Machin, from the Havana prosecutor's office, on implementing Decree-Law 149 against those who become wealthy through theft, embezzlement, speculation, and other illegal activities:

[Begin Valdez recording] Havana prosecutors carried out a search, according to the law, of the home of one of these renowned moneybags and seized one fan, two ceiling fans, one air conditioner, two digital clock-radios, two color televisions, two refrigerators, one freezer, one VCR, three remote controls, one plastic pool, three cars, one motorcycle, one two-story house, and numerous vehicular spare parts and domestic items.

How can someone who does not work acquire all these things? Where did he get the money from? How many years of honest and well-remunerated work would be required to accumulate even a portion of the things seized from this house? The implementation of Decree-Law 149 has brought to light, in all its crudeness, the situation of many people who took advantage of the workers' labor to satisfy their personal cravings. The time of reckoning has come for these social parasites. We are witnessing the beginning of the end of the moneybags. [end recording]

Politburo Member Urges Lawyers To Back System

FL1706163294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Julian Rizo Alvarez, Politburo member and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, has called on provincial lawyers to support the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. Rizo made the call at a meeting with lawyers, during which it was stressed that the goal of that united effort is to live under the rule of law and to uphold the workers' peace of mind. Rizo said: I ask Camaguey lawyers to honor the virtuous legacy of the nation's founding fathers and the glory gained from loving and defending the fatherland with passion and valor. The meeting included a briefing on the outstanding and decisive performance of these legal workers in detecting and processing cases of illegal purchases and sales of homes and vehicles in accordance with Decree-Law 149.

Land Grants for Coffee Production Considered

FL1706004794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] One hundred seventy state and self-employed workers as well as pensioners from Guisa Municipality have applied for land grants to begin producing coffee in the mountains of Granma Province. The need to increase coffee production, a source of hard currency for Cuba, as well as a way of repopulating the mountain region of Guisa, which has a shortage of workers, was stressed in a meeting with 18 of these applicants.

Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan Morales and Alfredo Enriquez Pina announced that these workers and their relatives add up to 472 people; they can tend an area of 387 caballerias for coffee production. Jordan added that this situation is under study to set up contracts and to grant the land to them, since in the mountain regions of the country, there are approximately 2,000 caballerias that the state cannot make productive because of labor force shortages.

Alfredo Enriquez Pina stated that everyone moving to the mountains, people with demonstrated revolutionary aptitudes, people able to make the land produce, people able to repopulate the mountains, and zealous guardians of the Revolution must be given incentives.

Ministry, Bank Draft 'Family Contract' on Land Grants

FL1706113994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Alfredo Jordan Morales, Politburo member and agriculture minister, has met with farmers in Guisa Municipality, Granma Province. They want to return to the mountains, to land they abandoned when the Revolution triumphed. The Agriculture Ministry is evaluating and accepting these petitions, acting under a Politburo accord that allows the state or cooperatives to give up unattended land that has agricultural potential.

Approximately 600 caballerias to date have been apportioned and are now covered with tobacco crops, worked by the people who have made these requests. Jordan spoke at length with those who were originally farmers and who are now working in restaurants or other activities in the cities. These lands, abandoned for more than 20 years and having agricultural potential and will be replanted with tobacco, coffee, trees, and other crops.

Jordan told the farmers that the Agriculture Ministry will be happy to review any request from anyone anywhere in the country. Jordan went on to inform them that the Ministry is confiscating the land of those farmers who do not meet the commitments they have with the state.

Family contract [contrato familiar] is the name given to the document that was drafted by the Agriculture Ministry and the bank that grants credit to those who request this contract to cover initial expenses. It is nice to know that farmers, people, and families are requesting land so that the production of tubers, vegetables, and grain—food for our population—increases.

Support for 'Second Generation Economic Reforms' Noted

FL1706012494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Cuba's presence at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias was closely linked with its interest in adopting specific actions in favor of regional integration. That is why it supported previous presidential summits and the one that recently concluded in Colombia. Everything that sponsors trade—investments, exchanges, technical aid, and scientific and technical cooperation in this hemisphere—has been firmly supported by this blockaded island. In fact, the Cuban position goes so far as to support the so-called second generation economic reforms proposed by the United States for this region, provided the summit unilaterally organized for December in Miami does not become a forum to set guidelines for Latin America and to isolate Cuba.

Making progress within the integration plans is still part of the Cuban position, even when results achieved in this respect at three previous summits have somehow failed to fulfill the hopes for an effective, specific consensus. Even though Latin American countries have participated in the integrationist efforts exerted for many years, they admit they have yet to eliminate the obstacles that must preclude an integration in the economic, trade, and investment sectors despite a more favorable international situation. This is proved by the underhanded economic pressure frequently exerted by the United States on nations in this geographic area.

The presidents' reflections on the economic, trade, and financial blockade against Cuba were not directly expressed in their speeches to the fourth summit's plenary session, nor were they included in the lengthy text of the final declaration. Paradoxically, the most important international organization, the UN General Assembly, approved resolutions that condemn the blockade that the United States maintains against our country, yet the summit of statesmen and rulers in this hemisphere briefly alludes to the unjustifiable measure without even calling it by its name.

Report on Manufactured Gas Shortage in Havana

FL1806005594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Approximately 50,000 families in Havana depend on manufactured gas, and current limitations of that fuel negatively affect between 475,000 and 500,000 persons.

Two plants supply the capital, the Mario Fortuni Plant, which operates with French technology, and the so-called Melones plant, which was purchased in the United States at the turn of the century. Jointly, they produce a little bit over 400,000 cubic meters of manufactured gas, a volume far below the current demand.

Although other factors are involved, four have essentially caused a production deficit in that industry: a tank out of service due to necessary repairs; lack of number 40 gas because the Nico Lopez Refinery closed down, damage in one of the Mario Fortuni Plant's lines; and a failure in its hydraulic system due to low-quality rubber gaskets.

[Begin recording] [Engineer Flora Elena Mesa] Repairs disrupt our service because although we can manufacture gas at night, we need to stop once the storage tanks are full—we have nowhere else to store the gas—and the next day we have less gas available to provide this service to the population.

Regarding the rubber gaskets problem, some of the gaskets lasted three, six, and even 12 months—for example the (Clavier) gaskets—yet these last only a week, 15 days, sometimes hours. This results in constant breakdowns, and we have to stop the plant to solve the problem.

This line should have been repaired by now. Its effectiveness has decreased; its efficiency is not the same and it has lower production.

The lack of number 40 gas... [pauses] like I said, the Nino Lopez Refinery's catalytic cracking plant, the one that produces liquefied gas, is undergoing general repairs. Consequently, we cannot receive the number 40 gas, which represents an important support in our production.

[Unidentified Reporter] When do you think the gas service can be restored?

[Mesa] The situation cannot change in the near future because the gasket problem has not been solved, and the gasometer is still out of service. The gas situation will improve next month. [end recording]

[Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 17 June reports in its "NTV" newscast that the Melones Plant tank, which can store 70,000 cubic meters of manufactured gas, has been repaired so Havana's manufactured gas enterprise will now be able to store more gas to supply the population.]

Citizens Report: Water Shortage Worse in Havana

FL1706020094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Report by Carlos Rafael Jimenez for the "Doing Radio" program in Havana—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We are in front of the provincial directorate for aqueducts, sewers, and ditches in Havana. Carlos Rollan, Jose Silva, and I are here in an effort to get a firsthand report on water distribution. It is true we have received more calls than usual this

morning. People have called us, although they are well aware of the limitations we have concerning the distribution of water, meaning you get it every other day.

For example, Mr. Mendez called us today and said La Vibora was scheduled to get water yesterday, but that they got it for only one hour. Others called us from Havana's old sector and downtown areas.

In other words, we got more calls than usual to talk about water distribution. This prompted us to come here to the office in charge of Havana's aqueducts. I am waiting for Comrade Humberto Munguia, assistant director of the waterworks. He was located by plant personnel, brought directly from the operations room, and was asked to come here. He said he will be here in approximately 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, I have something to announce. El Gato aqueduct will shut down today for maintenance work. Everyone knows it was built some years ago and has helped considerably in the distribution of water in Havana. The facilities in Vento, that historic aqueduct, also faces problems because its reservoir levels are low. I looked at the tanks through which water is gravity-fed at El Alvear, and I saw that their contents are far below the necessary level.

Since I am not a specialist on this topic, we will wait for Comrade Humberto Munguia's reprt on the topic that brought me here, meaning that although they are aware of the limitations, people called me to report that the distribution of water in Havana has decreased.

Pinar del Rio Transmitters Get Emergency Electric Plants

FL1606203294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Report by Jose Antonio Sarantes]

[Text] The installation of emergency electric plants at the television, Radio Rebelde, and Radio Progreso transmitter facilities is one of the tasks that Pinar del Rio communicators are curently engaged in to salute the 26 July anniversary. An enormous effort is being exerted by technicians and specialists in this area at Vuelta Abajo to leave the so-called emergency plants ready and able to keep equipment operating in case of a blackout.

Mariel Electric Generator Back in Operation

FL1706163494 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Generator Unit No. 6 at Mariel's Maximo Gomez Electric Plant is back in operation after two years. It will undergo a 72-hour test before joining the national electric system. The Maximo Gomez plant now has three 100-watt units in operation, which will help significantly reduce annoying outages.

Gold, Sulphur Plants Begin Operations 14 Jun

FL1706235694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Report by Manolo Rodriguez Salas from Pinar del Rio for the "NTV newscast"]

[Text] In a dignified salute to 14 June, the date when two of the greatest men in our history were born, Antonio Maceo and Ernesto Che Guevara, the citizens of Pinar del Rio have obtained the first 100 grams of gold at the plant in Castellanos, Minas de Matahambre Municipality. The investment had been planned barely two years and four months ago.

Hundreds of workers, mostly members of the Celso Maraotolara Brigade, as well as engineers, project managers, and technicians from the Ministry of Basic Industry gave additional proof of our people's intelligence and capacity when they got the plant operating without foreign consultation. Also, this is a one-of-a-kind project in the country. The new plant is capable of delivering up to 500 kg of gold per year for seven or eight years; it is considered the most feasible of all the gold-producing plants in Cuba.

The sulphur plant was also reopened. This year, it has a pledge to deliver 32,000 tons of sulphuric acid, which is an essential product for the nickel industry.

Central Army Concludes Officer, Staff Exercise

FL1806005894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] On 17 June, the Central Army concluded an exercise for officers and general staff called Moncada 2-94-1, after three days of fieldwork and positive results in strengthening defensive capacities. Organization, command maintenance, and cooperation during combat actions were the primary courses of study during the exercise. For their fulfillment, various tactical episodes were carried out by regular units and local defense forces.

The maneuvers are part of the Central Army's preparation system during the current period of instruction and included exercises with live ammunition by some units.

Central Army Conducts Moncada-94 Exercise

FL1606203094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] The exercise Moncada-94 for commanders and general staff began on 15 June in Matanzas. Its main goal is to improve command organization and cooperation during combat operations. The leadership of large, medium, and small units and defense councils are participating in the exercise in diverse areas of Matanzas Province and other Central Army provinces.

Cruces Municipality Assemblies Conclude

FL1706022394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The progress report assemblies of delegates to constituents concluded in the Cruces Municipality in Cienfuegos Province with the participation of over 20,000 voters, 85 percent of the total. The 82 assemblies planned were held in this locality where 230 issues were debated, of which 212 reached solutions or answers, while 15 are to be solved with the support of the people and 18 are to be worked out with provincial and municipal organizations.

Among the issues most debated during this process were the difficulties presented by water distribution, the quality of bread, garbage pick-up, and the state's distribution of food supplies. Cruces Municipality government leaders described the progress reports assemblies as positive, where each assembly was a neighborhood party. The peoples' council of (Isla de Pino-La Trocha) was the most outstanding of the seven in the locality.

Haiti

U.S. Embassy Staff Leave Haiti 16 Jun

FL1706211594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] On 16 June, employees of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince began leaving Haiti for the United States. A preliminary group of seven people departed on a commercial American Airlines flight. Ambassador Swing took leave of this group at the airport in the presence of American journalists currently in Port-au-Prince.

It should be noted that about 70 members of the families of the U.S. diplomatic staff accredited in Haiti, including the spouse of Ambassador Swing, are due to leave Haiti before the suspension of commercial flights between Haiti and the United States on 25 June, and according to information provided by AFP, 75 diplomats, including Ambassador Swing, will remain in Port-au- Prince.

It should also be pointed out that U.S. citizens residing in Haiti have begun to leave the country under their government's recommendation.

Public Urged To Back Police, Report Foreigners

FL1706171594

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1045 GMT on 17 June carries its regularly scheduled newscast, which includes the following reports:

Government Urges Public To Help Police

"The government in Port-au-Prince has asked everyone living in the cities and in the provinces to remain alert to the current team's orders and to collaborate with the local police forces and to be ready, if the case arises, to lend them a hand in fulfilling the exceptional duties that the latest acceleration of the crisis has imposed."

Ministry Release on Housing Foreigners

"The Information and Coordination Ministry has reissued an Interior Ministry press release reminding hotels, boarding houses, and people housing foreigners that under Article 60/61 of the 26 December 1978 law, they are required to notify the Immigration and Emigration Service as well as the Police Bureau within 24 hours of the arrival of a customer, resident, or foreign tenant."

Front Official Chambelain Returns

"Louis Jodel Chambelain has returned to the fold. Chambelain, who temporarily distanced himself from his political base, seems to have recovered his position within the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti. Chambelain renewed his support for the Jonassaint government after several untimely statements."

Radio Metropole then airs the following recorded remarks by Chambelain: "We respond to the appointment today as we did in Crete-a-Pierrot, Breda, and the Citadelle Henri. How can we forget 11 October 1993, the lucky day when all of our cohorts demonstrated a chivalrous spirit and, in unison along the Port-au-Prince shoreline, protested the opposition and its self-interested generosity under the cover of humanitarian aid. How can we forget those deeply moving pages in history on which the story is written of burning tires burning our alive brothers? The pills of yesterday are too hard to swallow. No! We will not change."

Chamber of Commerce Denounces Gray's Statements

FL1706221794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1700 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti advises in a press release that although it had decided to maintain silence, it now finds itself compelled to break this silence and raise the most energetic protest against the threats of intervention to the country. The Chamber makes a point of advising that in keeping with the Constitution, it will never accept an attack on Haiti's sovereignty. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti believes that it must also protest to the American people and the international organizations the untimely statements of President Clinton's representative, William Gray. Mr. Gray, states the Chamber of Commerce, in the policy that he is ready to apply without

visiting Haiti, without knowing the country's problems, without getting in touch with the Haitian organizations, attacks the Haitian people.

Mr. Gray totally ignores the fact that 90 percent of all airline tickets are bought and used by a small group of vendors. Indeed more than 2,000 to 3,000 venders travel back and forth to Miami, New York, Curacao, and Panama to supply themselves with goods for resale, and to provide jobs to more than 10,000 small distributors. It is this possibility that Mr. Gray wants to prevent because it will increase the number of boat people, since this group will no longer be able to feed their families, states the Chamber of Commerce. Out of 700,000 airline tickets, this group uses approximately 600,000. Only 100,000 tickets are used by the so-called wealthy class and the middle class, those traveling on business and to visit their children studying abroad.

Moreover, implying that $50 a month should be enough to support a Haitian family is without a doubt, says the Chamber, an insult to a whole nation, and a scandal similar to genocide. Such statements and all of those who approve of Mr. Gray have ignored the Haitians themselves and are considered detractors and destroyers of the Haitian nation. Furthermore, it is incomprehensible that to restore democracy to Haiti, dictatorial formulas are being used, such as freezing all Haitians' bank accounts in the United States, and imposing an unfair, criminal embargo. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti takes this occasion to reiterate that only Haitians will succeed in solving the current crisis of the country.

Labels Embargo 'Unfair,' 'Criminal'

PA1806161294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0501 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry today condemned the international embargo against this Caribbean country and labeled it "unfair and criminal." In addition, other procoupist sectors reaffirmed their support for the military.

The Chamber of Commerce criticized the possibility of military intervention in Haiti and censured U.S. Government representative William Gray, who said the Haitian private sector had admitted that the military's permanence in power is harmful for private sector interests.

Lawyer Mireille Durocher Bertin, who supports the military, pointed out that "the High Command's resignation, demanded by the UN Security Council, is equivalent to the destabilization of the Army and, therefore, of all national institutions." Conversely, pro-Aristide Deputy Samuel Madistin said "General Cedras' resignation is the first step toward resolving the crisis."

In view of the situation, U.S. diplomatic personnel started to leave the country on Thursday. Unofficial sources, however, have said that 75 U.S. Embassy officials will stay. According to Radio Metropole, thousands of U.S. citizens, including naturalized Haitians, have returned to their home country so far and that 1,368 Haitians, who obtained political asylum in the United States, are expected to travel to this country before 25 June.

As for the application of the embargo, banned products keep entering Haiti through the border with the Dominican Republic despite the presence of numerous soldiers and international observers. Gasoline vendors, who work for the military and their associates, appear to be surprised about the large amount of fuel available. "The price keeps getting lower. It rose when the border closure was announced. Shortly thereafter, however, because it was so easy to obtain it, the price started to drop. Now, gasoline costs 20 percent less than last week," one of the vendors said.

The remarks by members of the different sectors occurred nine days after Canada stopped flights to Haiti and one week before the United States applies a similar measure.

Provisional Health Minister Presents Priorities

FL1706225994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] The sessions of the ministers of the Jonassaint government have resumed in the Senate of the Republic, Sansaricq branch. The minister of Health was received on 16 June by the contested 18 January elected senators and some senators from the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion. In his presentation, Dr. Jean Boirond insisted, at length, on the necessity for the Haitian state to take control of public health throughout the country. Moreover, he denounced the attitude of the nongovernmental organizations [NGO's] and of the World Health Organization [WHO] which attempt, according to the minister, to replace the Haitian state in the health fields.

[Begin Boirond recording] The NGO's have taken advantage of the political situation, with the complicity of the international organizations in general, and the representation of the health organizations, especially WHO, by attempting to replace, and in some specific fields, in fact usurp, the prerogatives granted to the Health Ministry by the Constitution and the laws in effect. The objectives that we are aiming at, since our appointment, are first: to reestablish the authority and credibility of the Ministry of Public Health and Population; second, to put in operation some central and outlying structures of the Ministry of Public Health and Population; third, to guarantee an acceptable level of care as much in quality as quantity for the overall population and, especially for the populations in difficulty; and fourth, to prepare the transition.

We have been giving ourselves priorities that I am going to present for your judgment. First, we think it is necessary to make primary medical care available, for which some assistance is already available in the country at the level of primary health care. Our second priority is

still the hospital of Haitian State University, the national point of reference. Our third objective is the creation of ambulatory medical assistance with the creation of a mobile surgery unit. [end recording]

Smuggled Gas Supplies Lower Black Market Price

PA1706220594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1844 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Jun (EFE)—In Haiti, the price of gasoline has fallen in the past three weeks from $10 to $6 per gallon on the black market due to—among other reasons—contraband and, according to observers, to the considerable reduction of the power outages in Port-au-Prince. Some reasons that have contributed to the fall of fuel prices are the continuous smuggling of gasoline from the Dominican Republic and, given the restoration of electrical services, homes and businesses no longer are using fuel to operate their emergency generators. In addition, many citizens are leaving their vehicles at home and choosing to travel to work on public transportation.

A merchant who asked to remain anonymous told EFE: "We continue receiving gasoline from the Dominican Republic despite the total embargo decreed by the United Nations." The source added that although the United States is making efforts to enforce the embargo, "the border between both nations is very long and the nations are very close."

Vehicle traffic has been reduced considerably in Port-au-Prince given the closing down of public and private schools. Therefore, many parents do not have to transport their children to school.

Meanwhile on Thursday, William Swing, U.S. ambassador to Haiti, bid farewell to a group of that mission's personnel and their families. The officials departed from Port-au-Prince at the request of Washington, which has asked its citizens to leave Haiti. Haiti's "de facto" government declared a state of emergency last week.

Anti-Drug Brigade Destroys 268 Kilos of Cocaine

FL1706222994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] On 16 June in the presence of journalists, the Haitian anti-drug service destroyed 268 kilos of cocaine from Colombia, intended for the U.S. market. The cocaine, seized during recent months by the Haitian anti-drug brigade, was thrown in the sea offshore by a unit of the Haitian Navy, aboard which were journalists and photographers who were invited to cover the event. [passage omitted]

Havana Film Festival Director Defects

PA1906234194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jun (EFE)—Jose Horta, director of the Havana Film Festival, informed EFE today of his decision not to return to Cuba after being mistreated by the police of his country. Horta, who is also international relations director of the Cuban Institute of Arts and Motion Picture Industry (ICAIC), told EFE that the police arrested him on 18 June as he was leaving the Havana airport on his way to Mexico. He said he was taken off the plane twice while the police thoroughly searched his luggage. He said the Cuban authorities later refused to return his passport.

The reason for his trip to Mexico was to promote the New Latin American Film Festival, which is held in Havana every December. "This situation has been humiliating. I never thought I would ever abandon Cuba, but this abuse is intolerable. I do not know if this is part of the prevailing wave of repression in the country, but I will not tolerate it any longer," he said.

Horta, who has been director of the film festival for four years and has participated in its organization for the past 16 years, said he has not yet decided whether he will request political asylum in Mexico or if he will travel to the United States.

Roberto Casin, former PRENSA LATINA director in Mexico, defected in May 1991 while in Mexico and later traveled to Miami, the United States.

Camacho Solis News Conference on Resignation

PA1706134294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] In a news conference held last night, Manuel Camacho Solis read a letter addressed to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari submitting his resignation as Peace Commissioner in Chiapas and announcing his decision to withdraw from political activities to devote himself to his family.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] In addition, I am hereby announcing that I will not participate in any political activities during the present administration. [end recording]

He said he will surely be criticized for quitting because he did not attain the expected results.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] But we have attained all results possible at present. I quit the commission committed, more than ever, to peace and democracy. [end recording]

Regarding the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] candidate's recent remarks, Camacho said this.

[Begin Camacho recording] His remarks on the Chiapas conflict have weakened the political negotiations and the role that I, as commissioner, could have continued to play to take new steps toward peace. For him, the problem focuses on the fact that a petition was answered but not accepted and that, therefore, the negotiation process failed. In the current situation in Chiapas, the PRI candidate's position and its effects have resulted in a kind of censure on my work, all of which makes peace even more difficult to achieve. [end recording]

Camacho Solis pointed out that it is necessary to view the problem, not only in terms of social policy, but in terms of political concepts as well, to create conditions for a respectable and lasting peace that can be accepted by the Zapatist National Liberation Front, thus sparing Chiapas and Mexico the social price of a protracted war. Camacho Solis announced his resignation in a Mexico City hotel.

Sends Letter of Resignation to Salinas

PA1906220894 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 P 6

[Letter from Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari issued in Mexico City on 16 June]

[Text] Respected President:

In the past few years, I have served the Mexican Government honestly. You know that during these years, I have dedicated my best efforts to solving conflicts and finding honorable and respectful results capable of strengthening society and its institutions. In all cases, I was able to avoid violence. I respected the rights of the parties involved. I was able to restore calm and create new institutional answers and solutions, always preferring political options to the use of force, which is unleashed when there is no foresight, no power to resist, or no courage.

In all cases, I sought results through a responsible handling of the administration and the economy. Public resources were managed honestly. I have never mixed matters of public interest with private business. I have never used my political position to infringe on the rights of others or on their public image. With your continuous support, I was able to face very complex local and national problems. I committed myself to respecting public liberties, and I fulfilled my commitment.

I am leaving the public administration after having held important positions during times of tension. I do so with the certainty that I have shown respect for the rights of citizens, social organizations, labor unions, and the opposition, always defending the institutions and public interest.

Now, just when we had secured, with your complete support, a consolidated truce in Chiapas, my work has been publicly criticized, and all sort of resources have been used to express this position and turn it into a guideline.

In light of the fact that this guideline differs from the political strategy for peace used in Chiapas, the possibility of coordinating the efforts needed in the new phase in the terms I have made public has been eliminated by reason of the nature of the current Mexican political system.

To maintain the current situation, I suggested that you ask the governor of Chiapas State to participate in some of the tasks in which I have been involved. The professional capabilities of your secretaries of finance, government, and foreign relations will ensure that the Chiapas problems in their areas of authority are given the appropriate attention.

Now, to secure more progress in the peace process, it is necessary to consolidate the military aspect, to avoid aggravating social conflicts in Chiapas, to carefully supervise the political campaign in the Chiapas elections, and to design a strategy for the new negotiation phase.

If the Zapatista National Liberation Army [EZLN] plans to increase its political activities, as can be concluded from its recent decisions, the only true way to protect the institutions is to produce a new political strategy of decisions, agreements, and broad new starts in favor of changes that are capable of securing peace.

In addition, in order to eliminate the possibility that my activities are used as a pretext by saying they generate unrest when the fact is that I have dedicated my entire life to the search for public peace, I hereby inform you of my decision to withdraw from political life and dedicate myself to family life. I inform you that I will not participate in any political activity during the current administration.

I know I will be told that I am forsaking peace because no result was secured. No. We have secured all the results possible at this time. I am quitting the commission with a firmer decision in favor of peace and democracy. My commitment to dialogue with the EZLN and the search for a peaceful solution is permanent.

I am taking your public and private word that I will continue to enjoy the guarantees I have as a Mexican citizen. I thank you for your permanent support and friendship and have faith that during the important period our country will experience, electoral impartiality will be strengthened and doors will be opened so civil society can help reduce tension and so there are democratic changes capable of making society feel secure and of producing economic growth.

I ask you to extend my gratitude to the Mexican Army for the support it gave to the political solution in Chiapas. I also ask you to thank the members of your cabinet for the support given to my mission.

I close by wishing you and your appreciated family health and well-being.

Respectfully yours. [no final signature as published]

More on Camacho Solis' Resignation

PA1706153494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1306 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Commissioner for Peace and Reconciliation Manuel Camacho Solis has presented to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari his resignation from the commission that led the peace negotiations in Chiapas.

Camacho thus announced his withdrawal from public life and politics during the present administration to devote himself to his family.

[Begin Camacho recording] I am leaving the administration after having held responsible posts in times of tension. I have the peace of mind of having respected citizens' rights for social organizations, labor unions, and opposition groups, while defending at all times the government's institutions and public interests.

Now, just when I had achieved a bilateral truce for Chiapas, with the government's full support, there have been expressions of criticism regarding my job. Every resource at hand has been used to spread that criticism and to portray it as the government's position. [end recording]

In a letter, Camacho Solis suggested to President Salinas that the peace negotiations in Chiapas be partially taken over by Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno and also by the secretaries of finance, government and foreign affairs.

[Begin Camacho recording] To achieve new progress in the peace process, it is necessary at this time to unite the military, to prevent an exacerbation of social conflicts in Chiapas, to conduct extremely careful proselytism activities in the Chiapas electoral campaign, and to design a strategy for a new phase of negotiations. [end recording]

Camacho Solis also commented on recent remarks by PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo concerning the Chiapas issue.

[Begin Camacho recording] His assertions regarding the Chiapas conflict have weakened the political negotiations and the role I could have played in taking new steps toward peace. [end recording]

Camacho Solis emphasized that the truce agreed on in Chiapas has not failed, and it is a mistake to compare it to a delay in armed actions. He concluded by saying there are two options in this case: the achievement of peace through agreements or through war, whereby victory would be achieved through the use of weapons.

President Salinas accepted Peace Commissioner Camacho's resignation. A communique states that the president acknowledged that Camacho Solis has always carried out the duties entrusted to him with honesty, skill, and political conviction. He thanked Camacho for his

efforts and determination to consolidate peace in Chiapas, adding that the San Cristobal talks were an important phase in the effort to achieve a political solution of this conflict. Salinas de Gortari said that henceforth the negotiations will be coordinated by the Executive Committee directed by the governor of Chiapas.

Salinas Tasks Hernandez To Comply With Chiapas Commitments

PA1806032794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0011 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jun (EFE)—Today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari tasked Hector Hernandez Llamas with complying with the commitments the government made during the peace process in Chiapas, in the country's southeastern region.

A government source told EFE that Hernandez Llamas "will not be the new commissioner for peace and reconciliation," a post held by Manuel Camacho Solis, the former Mexico City mayor and foreign relations secretary, until 16 June.

"It is a different post. We could say Commissioner Camacho Solis already did his job. He concluded it, and we are now entering a new institutional phase, which is to monitor and follow up on the commitments," the source said.

This source, who declined to be identified, reiterated to EFE the Mexican Government does not plan to resume the hostilities in Chiapas "under any circumstances" and "does not want to give the Zapatist rebels a pretext to do so."

"What is next is to comply with the commitments the government made during the dialogue in San Cristobal de las Casas, during which Camacho Solis offered solutions to the demands of the Zapatists, and the government will carefully and strictly comply with the commitments," the source added.

Salinas: Chiapas Governor To Negotiate with EZLN

PA1706123994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari met today with Manuel Camacho Solis, who informed him of his decision to resign from the Peace Commission.

President Salinas acknowledged that in carrying out the duties entrusted to him, Camacho displayed skill and a desire to serve. The Government of the Republic, Salinas said, will continue to meet its commitments in Chiapas. The negotiations will be conducted henceforth by the governor of Chiapas State.

Appoints Spokesman for Chiapas Peace Efforts

PA1806143494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari appointed Hector Hernandez Llamas as executive spokesman for the Chiapas peace efforts, which is a recently established position.

In order to carry out his duties, Mr. Hernandez Llamas will have to coordinate with Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno who has become responsible for conducting all efforts related to the peace process.

Meets With Cabinet on Chiapas Situation

PA1806190694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Report by Marcela Gutierrez from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas met with members of his cabinet on 17 June. It has been reported that the central subject of the meeting was Chiapas. Shortly thereafter, the president of the republic announced the appointment of Hector Hernandez Llamas as executive spokesman for the peace process in Chiapas. Hernandez will work to fulfill the social and economic pledges made during the San Cristobal de las Casas talks.

There was much activity today at Los Pinos. Governor of Chiapas Javier Lopez Moreno arrived at 1400 local time. Agrarian Reform Secretary Victor Cervera Pacheco, Agriculture Secretary Carlos Hank Gonzalez, Communications and Transportation Secretary Emilio Gamboa Patron, and Chamber of Deputies leader Maria de los Angeles Moreno also attended the meeting.

At 1600 local time today, the Presidency's social Communications Directorate reported that Hernandez Llamas will act as intermediary between the federal government and the State of Chiapas. The office also said that Chiapas Governor Moreno will be in charge of peace process activities. Hernandez Llamas will work closely with Moreno. Moreno has held several public posts in the government.

Chiapas Governor Appeals to EZLN To Resume Dialogue

PA1806163394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0530 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 17 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno, upon assuming responsibility for the peace process, today called upon the armed group in this southeastern Mexican state to resume the dialogue. It is "imperative" the negotiations resume. No one should pass up a new peace opportunity because otherwise the war will be long and painful,"

Lopez Moreno said in an appeal to the armed group, which made its emergence last 1 January in Chiapas.

On Thursday, the governor was appointed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari as the new person in charge of the peace efforts, hours after Manuel Camacho Solis resigned as the commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas. "The doors are open to dialogue.... the solution exists among us," Lopez Moreno stated in this capital, located 1,050 km southeast of Mexico City, in an appeal to the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

On Sunday, the armed group called Camacho Solis' response, made during the nine-day dialogue that ended 1 March in San Cristobal de las Casas, 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, to their demands as insufficient. The San Cristobal dialogue, which occurred under a virtual truce that began 12 January when Salinas de Gortari ordered a unilateral cease-fire, has ended, the group said, reiterating that it maintains the desire to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The armed group, which launched the movement to obtain justice for the Chiapas Indians, "has unquestionable social roots," Lopez Moreno said in his first statements as the new director of the peace efforts. The governor invited San Cristobal Bishop Samuel Ruiz, who served as a liaison in the past dialogue, to resume his task and said that "his experience and his moral integrity are indispensable in this new stage."

Lopez Moreno read the text of the statement before Hector Hernandez Llamas, the executive spokesman for the peace efforts in Chiapas, who was instructed on Friday by President Salinas to work closely with the governor in this endeavor.

Camacho Solis resigned on Friday alleging that purported criticism by Ernesto Zedillo, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, was "a sort of criticism" of his work, which was later denied by the candidate.

Zedillo Denies Criticism Led To Resignation

PA1706180094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1653 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jun (EFE)—Ernesto Zedillo, Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) Mexican presidential candidate, does not believe his criticism of Manuel Camacho Solis was the reason for Camacho Solis' resignation as commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas. "My reaction parallels that of the Mexican people," Zedillo told the Monitor radio newscast when he rejected Camacho Solis' insinuations that Zedillo's criticisms prevented him from continuing as peace commissioner.

On Sunday, Zedillo said the Zapatist guerrillas' rejection of the government's offers to solve their demands showed that the negotiations had been a failure and not a success, as Camacho Solis had led the Mexican people to believe.

The rebel Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) decided to reject the proposal the government presented between 23 February and 3 March in the dialogue in San Cristobal de las Casas, 700 km southeast of Mexico City.

Camacho Solis resigned last night, considering that Zedillo's opinions were a vote of censure against his actions as peace commissioner. After announcing his resignation, Camacho Solis indicated he will withdraw from politics during the rest of the Carlos Salinas de Gortari administration.

Zedillo said Camacho Solis' decision to resign was "personal," indicating he does not know the "political objective" of involving him because days before, Camacho Solis had said he would soon end his role as commissioner. "It is incomprehensible that suddenly, he turns around and does what he said he would do, linking it to my remarks," Zedillo said.

Regarding the Chiapas insurrection, Zedillo said that in his opinion, "the important thing at this time is to continue urging the government of the Republic and those who are discontent in Chiapas to spare no efforts to reach a permanent and just peace for all sides."

According to the PRI presidential candidate, the Chiapas conflict deserves "political and social attention." Zedillo added: "The only way to resolve the problem is through a social policy that will deal with the people's demands."

The Indian insurrection broke out on 1 January when the EZLN violently seized four cities in Chiapas, in a conflict that left more than 200 dead in 12 days of fighting prior to a cease-fire to negotiate a political solution which, after the EZLN's rejection, has slowed down.

Comments on Camacho Solis' Resignation

PA1806163994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Statement by Ernesto Zedillo, Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, presidential candidate, on 17 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The peace commissioner's resignation is a personal decision. By relinquishing the responsibility invested in him by the president of the republic, Camacho Solis made the best possible decision both for him and the country. I expressed my position on the conflict in that state in San Cristobal de las Casas on 21 April. I reiterate it today and quote what I said at the time. Just like the rest of Mexicans, I am persuaded that peace in Chiapas must be based on dialogue, understanding, well-intentioned negotiations, and the best possible positive attitude. Peace should be attained

through agreements that meet the just demands of the dispossessed, always respecting the rights of those who obey the law.

Once again, all of my party's militant members and I call for the reopening, as soon as possible, of channels of negotiation and understanding that make possible a permanent and just peace for everyone. Tolerance and the broadest possible sense of justice for all sides involved should prevail in the peace process. I hereby reaffirm my full support for the efforts that President Carlos Salinas has been making for a peaceful solution.

As for the peace commissioner's decision to resign, a decision that he links with my dissatisfaction over the EZLN's [Zapatist National Liberation Army] rejection of the agreement derived from the talks that concluded in San Cristobal de las Casas on 2 March, I have this to say:

1. My remarks at the time reveal the opinions of many Mexicans who had expected a final solution as the result of the San Cristobal talks.

2. The idea that peace was at hand was bolstered by the peace commissioner himself on 2 March, when he said this. Quote: The formula for peace has been defined. The terms for the peace agreements and cease-fire have been clearly established. A serious and respectful dialogue, with specific purposes, has been held, and there has been a call for in-depth changes in Chiapas. I am happy that this conflict was resolved in Mexico by Mexicans in a very short time. In addition, the EZLN's demands have received answers.

3. It is those in the EZLN themselves who rejected the proposal stemming from the San Cristobal talks and, therefore, undermined the commissioner's efforts. I am confident that, in response to the desire, shared by all Mexicans, for a just solution, particularly for those who live in a situation of misery and neglect, the EZLN will resume talks with the government to find solutions leading to permanent peace.

4. In the light of the above, it is remarkable that the peace commissioner attempts to blame my demand for a permanent and just peace for his resignation from a responsibility assigned to him. In addition, I have learned that before the EZLN's announcement and my own remarks, the peace commissioner had already commented on his decision to relinquish his post and devote himself to other activities. I hereby affirm that the efforts for peace must go on. This is a matter that concerns all Mexicans, not only one person or group. Given the conciliatory disposition of the government and Mexican society in general, the peace commissioner's resignation should not serve as an excuse for acts of violence. Finally, again I express my willingness, as well as that of my party, to contribute to any effort that the government and the EZLN deem necessary to strengthen the permanent peace process and ensure the fulfillment of any agreement signed by the sides involved. Thanks.

Demands Peace Efforts Continue

PA1806124094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] Ernesto Zedillo, Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, presidential candidate, has demanded the continuation of peace talks in Chiapas. Zedillo has said reconciliation is something that interests all Mexicans; therefore, this process must continue. The presidential candidate also commented on last night's statements by Manuel Camacho Solis:

[Begin Zedillo recording] I believe that in relinquishing the responsibilities the president of the republic has given him, Manuel Camacho made the best decision for himself and the country. It seems strange the former commissioner is trying to blame me for quitting when all I did was demand a permanent and just peace. Furthermore, I have learned that before the Zapatist National Liberation Army issued its communique and before I made my statements, the former commissioner had already said he was planning to resign his commission in Chiapas and do other things.

I hereby reiterate the peace efforts must continue. This is a matter for all Mexicans, not only for one person or group. In light of the government of the republic and the Mexican people's reconciliating spirit, the withdrawal of the former commissioner should not be an excuse for the reappearance of violence. [end recording]

Bishop Ruiz Explains End of Role as Peace Mediator

PA1806042794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 16

[Report by Jose Gil Olmos and Elio Henriquez]

[Excerpt] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 16 Jun—Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia has said his role as mediator and the role of Manuel Macho Soils as peace commissioner concluded with the end of the dialogue phase between the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] and the federal government in this city.

In an interview granted to the media this morning, Ruiz said "the dialogue between the government and the EZLN, involving the commissioner and a mediator, who was accepted as part of the dialogue, concluded this phase. Thus, as long as the situation remains unchanged, there will no mediation on my part. There is no established dialogue between civilian society and the government.

"After the dialogue was held in San Cristobal, it was declared finished. A reaction followed, and that was communicated to the civilian sector, and the dialogue between the EZLN and the government, strictly speaking, ended. "Thus, the role of peace commissioner for dialogue with the EZLN ended with the presentation

of direct proposals to the requests and demands that were made. Upon an appropriate report, as the one I believe we will be presenting in due time, that role ended."

[LA JORNADA] Could there be another commissioner?

[Ruiz] Yes, because there is now another kind of dialogue involved. It is no longer an EZLN-government dialogue but, rather, a civilian population-government dialogue, and we will have to wait and see how this dialogue is established.

Bishop Ruiz said the hierarchy of the Catholic Church will not participate in the National Democratic Convention (CND), called by the EZLN and which might be held in the first half of July within EZLN territory.

"We are part of history in the making. If there are concrete conditions and the entire civilian sector, which is primarily Catholic, agrees with it, we will accompany the country to a good goal: the search for a transition to a better fate in history. We cannot stay out of this. The Catholic hierarchy will not attend the convention unless there is a specific duty for it to fulfill."

He said that from their very first messages, the bishops urged people to understand that the Chiapas conflict had a national scope. In this regard, the EZLN declaration of war was not against a segment of the population, such as the ranchers or large landowners, but against the Mexican Army because the problem in Chiapas has national scope.

During this interview at Diocese Curia, Bishop Ruiz said that after analyzing the most recent EZLN communiques, it is clear a nonresponse to the peace agreements is not tantamount to a declaration of war.

To the contrary, he explained, "saying no to the agreements is not tantamount to saying yes to war. It is a definite no to war; a no to war in favor of a civic and nonmilitary solution; a no to war because they unilaterally decided (it is now a bilateral decision) to extend the cease-fire; a no to war and a yes to the peace option through a dialogue. In this case, however, a broader dialogue is being called, a dialogue that includes the participation of the entire civilian sector." [passage omitted]

Endorses Comacho Solis' Work

PA1806190194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, has issued a communique endorsing the efforts that Manuel Camacho Solis carried out for five months and six days in favor of peace in Chiapas.

President of International Consultants Julio A. Millan thinks the country's economy should not be affected by Camacho Solis' resignation.

[Begin Millan recording] There are no losers. The people are not affected. In addition, all of the candidates still have freedom of movement. A citizen has resigned from a post, and this is similar to the resignation of any other official. The important thing now is to limit to the Chiapas area the causes and activities related to the problem. [end recording]

Felipe Solis, Federal Electoral Institute executive director, says there is no reason for Camacho Solis' resignation to affect the 21 August elections.

PAN, PRD React to Camacho Resignation

PA1706154194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1309 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] PAN [National Action Party] Mexican presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos commented briefly on Manuel Camacho Solis' resignation from the post of commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas. Fernandez de Cevallos characterized the decision as very respectable, adding that the text of the resignation is serious and dignified.

Meanwhile, the Party of the Democratic Revolution in the Federal District said the resignation proves that there is a crisis within the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party].

Deputy Rene Bejarano said Camacho's resignation proves that he is in disagreement with those who want to reduce democratic demands to the simplest expression. He warned that Camacho Solis' resignation increases the likelihood of renewed hostilities in Chiapas at any time.

Business, Financial Leaders See 'Uncertain' Future

PA1806010494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 18

[Article by Raul Llanos and Roberto Gonzalez]

[Text] Representatives of the country's business and financial sectors have expressed regret about the resignation of Manuel Camacho Solis, Chiapas peace and reconciliation commissioner, and have said that although economic "adjustments" could take place, these will not be serious. Some said the country's future looks uncertain, adding that this situation could make the government toughen its position toward the armed group.

Last night, Finance Minister Pedro Aspe refused to make any comments on the effects that the resignation of the former foreign relations secretary of state may have on the nation's financial markets.

Meanwhile, Capital Bank President Jaime Weiss pointed out the former commissioner's resignation will not affect the nation's financial markets; however, he recognized there could be some adjustments, but these are regular

adjustments already foreseen. He added Mexican society is strong and mature and will react cautiously to this incident. Weiss also added Mexican investors still trust the nation's economic progress and have the long-term foresight to keep their capital in the country.

The National Association of the Processing Industry (Canacintra) believes Camacho's departure took place when the peace process is at a decisive moment. It stated, however, that this departure will have no effect whatsoever on what has been attained so far, nor will it prevent the two parties from sitting down to discuss and reach peace in Chiapas through a consensus and dialogue.

"We do not think this resignation will have repercussions in the economic and financial arenas because the country has suitable people to continue the negotiations that are taking place in Chiapas," the president of the National Processing Industrialists Association (ANIT) stressed. He added: "It is a shame he resigned; I believe he did a great job, taking into account the governmental and nongovernmental limitations he had. His resignation gives leeway to repressive behavior because his role of mediator helped nonrepressive forces assume a passive attitude. Questioned about Mexico's political and economic future, the ANIT president said that "in general terms, it does not look bright." This is why a replacement must be appointed soon. As for economic impacts, he said there will be capital flight, a bear market, and interest rate increases because the resignation has exacerbated the atmosphere of uncertainty that reigns in the country. He also said Camacho faced some difficulties as he waded through pressure exerted from inside and outside the system and from the Institutional Revolutionary Party. He stressed: "Ernesto Zedillo's hard-heartedness contributed to this situation."

Aurelio Tamez, president of the Sales and Marketing Executives Confederation, said Camacho's negotiations were difficult despite the efforts he made; his retirement is regrettable.

Deputy Attorney General: DEA Did Not Violate Sovereignty

PA1706141594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] On 15 June, Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu said DEA agents have not carried out any new kidnappings of Mexican citizens in national territory and have not violated national sovereignty.

In an exclusive interview, Ruiz Massieu discussed accusations made against the DEA for the alleged kidnapping of Modesto Lujan Valladares and three other persons in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, and their transfer to Texas without authorization from the Mexican Government.

[Begin Ruiz Massieu recording] No official from this institution has said DEA agents supposedly kidnapped Lujan Valladares in Mexican territory, violating our national sovereignty. [end recording]

The four Mexicans have been in a prison in Marfa, Texas, for almost a month. The Attorney General's Office and the Foreign Relations Secretariat, however, are investigating to clarify the situation.

PGR Statement on Alleged Kidnapping by DEA

PA1706164194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 42

[Text] The Attorney General's Office [PGR] has provided an explanation of the allegations, which have appeared in diverse national media, that in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, DEA agents kidnapped Modesto Lujan Valladares, who was taken to a penitentiary in Marfa, Texas.

1. No official of this institution has stated that DEA agents engaged in the alleged kidnapping of Lujan Valladares in Mexican territory, thereby violating national sovereignty.

2. It has been learned that Modesto Lujan Valladares was arrested on 21 April in Marfa, Texas, near the town of Presidio, which borders Ojinaga, Chihuahua. Lujan Valladares was found in a vehicle with Victor Valle Lujan, Isidro Armendariz Morales, and Samuel Garcia Wilfar, ready to sell 125 pounds of marijuana to an undercover agent.

3. Nevertheless, the PGR has initiated an investigation into the affair, instructing its representatives in the United States to obtain detailed information on the case to totally clear up the facts for the public.

Regarding Sovereignty

Unrestricted respect for sovereignty in our nation and the decided struggle against international crime constitute an irrevocable commitment, which the PGR reaffirms to guarantee the community's security.

Counternarcotics Commissioner on Joint Antidrug Efforts

PA2006002494 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 13 Jun 94 p 13

[Text] With the conviction that drug trafficking is a worldwide problem that should be attacked jointly, the Mexican state has called for the establishment of a common front to combat this activity because drug trafficking needs to be fought with great efforts and increasingly larger economic and human resources, the Attorney General's Office (PGR) has stated. Thus, Mexico and the United States must continue to support joint strategies without violating the sovereignty of either country to combat drug trafficking.

During the inauguration of a training course for PGR agents, at installations of the FBI Academy in Virginia,

the United States, Rene Paz Horta, National Counternarcotics Institute (INCD) commissioner, said the intensification of efforts and the support of other nations strengthen the task of combating drug trafficking and related crimes, which he described as "among the most serious scourges of humanity."

Representing Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino, who is responsible for counternarcotics efforts in the country, Paz said the training of PGR agents will help find solutions to this problem and reflects the two countries' willingness to cooperate.

During the ceremony to inaugurate courses for PGR agents at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Paz said Mexico and the United States must continue to promote joint strategies, without violating the sovereignty of either nation, to fight drug trafficking.

The INCD commissioner said there is a firm conviction that drug trafficking is a worldwide problem that must be confronted jointly. He added this experience reinforces the hope of establishing a united front to combat this type of crime while respecting each other, their ethical values, and the law.

He added the Mexican state headed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has promoted the establishment of a common front against crime because the antidrug fight requires tremendous efforts and increasingly larger economic and human resources.

Paz said it is painful to see thousands of human beings, particularly young ones, fall victim to drugs. He highlighted the need to expand rehabilitation programs for adults as well as the people's participation in preventive efforts.

Zedillo Interviewed on Antipoverty Plan

PA1706141194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1414 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Ernesto Zedillo, presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, in Jalapa, Veracruz, by reporter Javier Alatorre at Azteca Network's Mexico City studios; from the "Early Morning" newscast—live]

[Text] [Alatorre] Mr. Zedillo, a few minutes ago we read details of this antipoverty plan. We can see that it is a very ambitious plan. How will the plan be financed? Where will the money come from?

[Zedillo] Javier, the plan will be financed with money that we hope the process of economic growth will begin to provide in 1995. It will also be financed by better distributing the money within the federal government. We are going to do what has been done in the past few years; we are going to reallocate nonpriority expenditures to those areas of a social nature, such as those contemplated in this plan. We are also going to finance the plan by asking the civilian population, those organizations interested in working to solve this problem, to contribute as well. It is a good plan, a plan that can be financed. The plan will be expanded as we receive more money, without creating inflation, to support the plan.

[Alatorre] Dr. Zedillo, do you plan to get money through the sale of state enterprises that have not been privatized yet?

[Zedillo] The money received from privatizing state enterprises will basically be allocated to the fund for the promotion of the infrastructure, which we announced last week as a suggestion. These would be huge works aimed at unleashing the country's economic growth. For the antipoverty plan, we will use the fiscal resources that will grow with time and the money that we receive through better public administration, as well as through contributions from the people.

[Alatorre] Dr. Zedillo, we understand that with this plan to fight poverty, you will try to help 14 million people who live in poverty. I rounded up the figure when I said 14 million; if I am not mistaken the number is actually 13.6 million, according to the information you provided. Will this represent some changes in the economic policy the current administration has followed? Will there be new changes? In other words, what will you retain from this current administration, and what will you change?

[Zedillo] Javier, that is a very broad question. Last week, I presented my economic plan. At that time, I said it is very important that we maintain overall economic discipline and good public finances, but that we have to move to a phase of economic promotion. We must promote investment to create the new jobs that our country badly needs. I have presented an antipoverty plan. This is a more ambitious plan. This antipoverty plan is possible precisely because we have that material base. This will allow us to help many people and implement much more specific measures to attack poverty.

I believe this policy, the economic as well as the social policy I am promoting, is the result of the fact that for the past few years very solid bases have been built. It would have been impossible for us to set such ambitious goals six years ago; however, today we can do it responsibly.

[Alatorre] Dr. Zedillo, what happened in Chiapas State is perhaps an example of the poverty that exists in some areas of our country. Will the plan be a response to this very old problem?

[Zedillo] Definitely, Javier. Poverty is expressed in specific ways. Poor health, lack of food for children and mothers, lack of education, lack of the essential services such as drinking water, electricity, and sewers, and lack of job opportunities. Had the country been capable of developing a plan such as this one many years ago, I doubt if today we would be regretting those tragic situations that concern us.

[Alatorre] Is violence a justifiable response to extreme poverty?

[Zedillo] Definitely not. I said this earlier this morning, and I have said it on several occasions. We understand the problem, and we must solve it; however, nothing is an excuse for violence or unrest. Mexico is a country that has laws and institutions, a country with a Constitution we must all respect.

[Alatorre] Dr. Zedillo, we know that you have had a very active day. We learned about your program to fight poverty in Ecatepec, and we know you are going to be in Veracruz tonight. You have a tight schedule for tomorrow as well. Before bidding you farewell, I would like to ask you about the incidents at the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM] this morning, the attacks against the candidate of the National Action Party [PAN]. What is your opinion?

[Zedillo] It is very regrettable. I do not have the details, but I believe it should be condemned. This is something that should not be done, but I also believe we cannot make a poor overall judgment of our national university because of the actions taken by an irresponsible, aggressive minority. I was at the UNAM a few weeks ago during a very interesting, participatory, and respectful meeting with a considerable number of students. But when I was leaving the university, I was the object of an act of aggression. It was an act of aggression, which by the way, was organized by a party that is participating in these presidential elections. I would expect these regrettable incidents not to be linked to that party as well, otherwise it would represent an intolerable situation that would not promote civilized political life in the country, which all Mexicans want. I, therefore, condemn this incident. I convey my solidarity with the PAN candidate, and I also reaffirm that this in no way reflects the true feelings of the UNAM. The UNAM is the most important university in the country. Mexico owes a great deal to the UNAM, and these incidents of violence in no way discredits our highest education center.

[Alatorre] We thank you for this interview. You are now in Jalapa, Veracruz. We invite you to accompany us here at the studios of Television Azteca in Mexico City.

[Zedillo] Thank you, Javier, and I will be in your studios soon. It will be my pleasure.

Guatemala

Government, URNG Reach Accord on Resettlement

PA1806000894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2238 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] New York City, 17 Jun (DPA)—The Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) reached an agreement today in Oslo on the resettlement of people uprooted by the internal strife that shook the country for 30 years, the United Nations reported today in New York City. The agreement will not enter into force until the government and the URNG sign a final peace agreement at the end of this year. The preparatory work for this accord will begin in the next 60 days, it was announced.

Once the resettlement concludes, the sides will begin to discuss the topic of the "identity and rights of Indian peoples," which is the next step in the negotiations. This new pact, accompanied by the one signed already on human rights, consolidates the possibility of bringing to an end the longest continuing conflict in Latin America, the United Nations indicated.

Article Views Caribbean Basin Accord

PA1806205494 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jun 94 p 95

[Text] Guatemala could lose some $530 million a year from textile and clothing exports, if the U.S. Congress fails to approve President Clinton's bill granting parity to Caribbean Basin countries with regard to NAFTA.

According to a study conducted by the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA], the economies of Guatemala and the rest of the countries in the region would be severely harmed by their disadvantage with Mexico with regard to exports to the U.S. market.

Taking this into consideration, President Clinton sent to the Congress a bill detailing a "provisional trade proposal for the Caribbean Basin," until the countries of the region are completely integrated into NAFTA.

SIECA pointed out that investments are already being diverted to Mexico because of the country's preference within NAFTA. If this trend continues, the region's development would be set back, considering the fact that the United States is the main destination of exports in the area.

The proposal for the Caribbean Basin countries to attain parity with NAFTA was sent to Congress for approval, together with other bills related to foreign trade. For a country to participate in the provisional trade program, it must be free of charges of violations of labor and intellectual property rights laws. In addition, the country must not be included in the provisions of line 301 on restrictions on exports to the United States.

At present, Guatemala faces charges by labor unions and other U.S. organizations that the country violates labor rights, particularly regarding assembly plants, agriculture, and copyrights.

Minister on Transfer of Military Men to Police

PA1906225994 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 15 Jun 94 p 12

[Report by Carlos Castanaza]

[Text] Nearly 1,800 military men could be transferred to the civilian security forces once they are trained to protect the people, Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez, said yesterday.

According to the minister, the number of police members should be increased, and the police have to be properly trained and equipped to meet society's demands for protection.

He also said the reorganization plan devised by the Army for those times when there is no counterinsurgency work to do includes the relocation of units. For instance, seven military detachments could be deployed in Peten Department to protect natural resources.

A reduction in the number of men would also improve their training, because for many soldiers the standard of living is very low, and many of them are considered needy.

We cannot put ourselves, however, behind many countries of the region. For this reason, a commission is studying the balance of arms. Guatemala is worse off than Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and even Costa Rica, because although Costa Rica says it does not have an army, it does possess a well-trained police equipped with mortars and howitzers, he said.

The minister believes Guatemala is ceasing to be a springboard for international drug trafficking. A positive sign is the use of drugs is not as common as in other countries.

We have not captured a single plane, from Colombia or wherever, carrying cocaine during the past few months. The drug capos have apparently departed for another country, he said.

The minister said drug trafficking continues over land and sea, albeit at much lower levels, as the result of the security forces' coordinated efforts.

Concerning arms trafficking, the minister said an arms cache recently discovered in Suchitepequez with 22 AK-47 rifles in perfect condition proves the URNG [National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity] does not lack arms but, rather, militant members.

Honduras

General Discua Denies Army Changes Indicate Purge

PA1706181194 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 10

[Text] "I give the orders here. I have the authority, and it is my duty to do so; it is unnecessary to look for other reasons because these are routine changes," said General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in angry reply to a question concerning the latest changes within the Armed Forces.

He added, quite simply, that he imparts orders because he is the leader of an institution that must be maintained to fulfill any mission that emanates from the Constitution of the Republic.

Gen. Discua Elvir denied that the changes in question are indicative of a purge or a generational struggle. He said that comments to this effect are made for the sole purpose of distracting the general public.

When asked why Colonel Lazaro Avila Soleno was not removed from his post while others were, Gen. Discua Elvir emphatically replied "because I am the one who imparts orders in the Armed Forces."

Meanwhile, he gave assurances that there will be no further changes because the changes that had to be made have been made. He added that there is no unrest within the Armed Forces because everyone knows that those who were removed had held their posts for over three years, and these changes are established in the Armed Forces Law.

Reina 'Optimistic' Over Results of Summit

PA1706183594 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Francisco Valeriano Giron; from "The Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] After participating in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina returned to the country very optimistic. The economic arena was the predominant subject at this meeting of presidents.

President Reina said that Central America has much to gain and can even obtain some benefits in keeping with the other economic blocs that have been formed. He was asked about the benefits that Honduras and the Central American region, in particular, can obtain from this meeting and replied:

[Begin Reina recording] Central America's treatment in trade treaties vis-a-vis the other economic blocs. For example, in the face of NAFTA, all of Central America is endeavoring to obtain parity. This means that in the Caribbean Basin and in Central America we can achieve integration with the area that encompasses Mexico, the United States, and Canada. That is a very specific point. Another specific point is the capitalization of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration [BCIE] with extraregional partners. This will permit the bank to dedicate a large amount of funds to our country's development, affording the treatment that international law, trade, and integration can provide. It is an asymmetrical treatment. This means that the same conditions are not going to be required of all the partners. For example, for Central American products and Honduran products, particularly, asymmetry would mean that products that are not strictly of Honduran origin can leave the country, because part of the raw materials come from abroad. That asymmetry would help enormously within the old concept of Central American development, which is a form of balanced development.

This does not mean that the most developed countries are going to wait for the less developed. No, the development of the less developed countries is expedited in order to balance them all off later in a big push toward development. Those specific points are very important and very encouraging in our country's development. [end recording]

President Reina also noted that another important achievement was the fact that the BCIE achieved more capitalization through extraregional partners. Also, he met with Commander Fidel Castro. We asked him what he discussed with Castro.

[Begin Reina recording] It was strictly a courtesy call. I was accompanied by four or five persons when receiving him. Our talks were very general. He was very interested in learning about Honduras. He recalls that Jose Marti visited Honduras. He remembers that patriot Gomez was also in Honduras. That offers us the perspective that we are neighbors of Cuba at a time when the Inter-American system should resolve that problem.

I had the opportunity to present this on behalf of Central America. For me the case of Cuba, which has been sanctioned by the OAS, should be resolved within the OAS. That is the appropriate forum for resolving this problem. This holds true especially now that a great Colombian, President Cesar Gaviria, is now the secretary general-elect of the OAS. He can again provide a golden era for that continental organization, as was provided by his illustrious predecessor [Former Colombian President] Alberto Lleras Camargo.

Let there be no doubt, it was a courtesy visit by a chief of state to another chief of state on the occasion of a summit. Second, the solution of the Cuban problem is through the OAS. Those two points cover your question. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Chamorro 'Optimistic' Over Cartagena Summit

PA1906010894 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Erika Ramirez from the "National Newscast; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro was visibly optimistic upon returning from the Fourth Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena, Colombia. The president said she expects good news from the negotiations with the consultative council in Paris.

President Chamorro's optimism could not be hidden. The Ibero-American presidents decided that countries such as Nicaragua should receive preferential and asymmetrical treatment in the integration processes. Venezuela and Colombia agreed to be nonregional associates of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, BCIE, a decision that will increase the social investment funds available to fight poverty.

[Chamorro] "I want to tell you that Nicaragua is no longer disregarded. It is seen as a country living in democracy, with great joy, and with its head up high. I am proud that all of you and all Nicaraguans are cooperating for the welfare of the country."

The president told journalists that tomorrow she might receive good news from the consultative group in Paris. As for domestic topics, she talked about the criticisms that have emerged regarding the military law.

[Chamorro] "If they want to criticize it and discuss it, let them do it in the Assembly. That is called democracy. This country needs a small army and police force. We do not need the number of weapons we used to have. What for? Aren't we burning them up already? That is how I see it. Perhaps the next president will not want an army, but we are going to have a small army now."

As for the list of alleged companies belonging to the Army, she said she did not know about it but will study it tomorrow. She also said that Nicaragua has secular education and would not reform any constitutional article in this regard.

[Chamorro] "I am not asking anyone to attend special classes. If they want to attend those classes, they may do so. They also have the right to attend church and cults if they so desire."

The president pointed out that the National Assembly has the duty to decide if it will approve the military code and the constitutional reforms. She said that what she wants is mutual respect among government branches.

Panama

Acting Foreign Minister Confirms Haiti Embargo

PA1806002094 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Ciro Ortega; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Cordero has said that any shipping company disobeying the government order suspending all shipments from Panama to the Republic of Haiti will be punished.

[Begin Cordero recording] I met with the Charge d'Affaires Georges Barberousse this morning. He told me that he has learned that merchandise is being shipped by sea. I told him I would immediately order an investigation. I contacted Port Authority Director Jerry Salazar, to whom I expressed my concern. He told me that he would implement all possible measures to ensure compliance with the embargo. [end recording]

Cordero said that the possible penalties range from fines to suspending the operational licenses of the sea cargo agencies.

Cordero reiterated that effective 26 June commercial flights from Panama to Haiti and vice versa will be suspended. COPA is the only airline operating on this route.

Haitian Embassy on Air Shipment

PA1706184294 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] The Haitian Embassy in Panama has revealed a report published by the Canadian press, which denounced the air lifting of large amounts of merchandise to Haiti directly from Panama.

According to the Canadian press report, the merchandise was destined for the elite families of Haiti.

The Haitian Embassy communique also denied a report that the Vatican allegedly would grant food supplements for the Haitian military.

Haitian Envoy Links Military to Drug Trafficking

PA1706222594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p 1A

[Article by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Haitian Charge d'Affaires Georges Barberousse told LA PRENSA that he has confirmed during his stay in Panama that there is a connection between Haitian military leaders and drug trafficking.

Barberousse pointed out that Panamanian authorities recently seized at Coco Solo Pier, Colon, two vessels bound for Port-au-Prince. More than 1,000 kg of cocaine were found in the vessels' holds, thus revealing a criminal connection.

As for the sanctions adopted by the OAS against the Raul Cedras military regime and the Panamanian Government's compliance with those sanctions, the Haitian charge d'affaires said he had received no official notification whatsoever.

The diplomat added: "If this is the Panamanian Government's position, the embassy approves of it with satisfaction, because that is the kind of attitude the international community is taking to solve the Haitian crisis."

Questioned on the imminent military invasion of his country, just as happened in Panama, Barberousse emphasized that the official position of Jean-Bertand Aristide's government's is not to support a military incursion in Haiti, but he understands the Panamanians' position on the issue.

The Haitian official also said that now is not the time for a military invasion but for the implementation of peaceful measures to settle disputes. That is the path that the international community is taking, thereby coinciding with the interests of the constitutional government.

Barberousse said: "What we really want is for the Haitian military to leave power, and that is what we are aiming for through the implementation of sanctions, which, we hope, will become more effective every day."

As for Panama, he reported that the Haitian Embassy this week sent a note to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry requesting a meeting with the foreign minister to discuss the implementation of sanctions and the cooperation the Panamanian Government has offered Haitians so far.

President-Elect To Meet With Spain's Gonzalez

PA1706173494 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 48

[From the "Brief Local News" column]

[Text] Designated Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo, who leaves the country on a 15-day vacation today, revealed yesterday that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will meet with Panamanian President-Elect Ernesto Perez Balladares in Madrid, Spain, on 10 July, when the latter starts an official four-day visit in that country.

The possibility of Spanish investments in Panama, support for the tourism program to be implemented by the new Panamanian Government, and other economic and social issues are part of the agenda to be discussed by Perez Balladares and Gonzalez, Lewis Galindo reported.

He also said the banana issue will not be absent even though it is well-known that this is a very complex problem and could never be resolved during this trip.

"The main purpose of this visit to Spain is to look for a rapprochement with Panama's traditional friends, such as the Spaniards and especially their president, Felipe Gonzalez," Lewis Galindo stated.

The designated foreign minister, however, did not reject the possibility that the Democratic Revolutionary Party will make efforts to be reinstated into the Socialist International [SI], an organization of political parties with a great deal of prestige. Felipe Gonzalez is one of the SI's most important leaders.

He added that President Perez Balladares will be accompanied by designated Planning Minister Guillermo Chapman, designated Presidency Minister Raul Arango, designated State Security Minister Jose Luis Sosa, former President Aristides Royo, and Mario Velasquez, the president-elect's spokesman.

Political Amnesty Bill Defeated in Assembly Debate

PA1906203894 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] faction last night dashed the hopes of its traditional opponent, the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], for having an amnesty bill for political offenses pass the Legislative Assembly. The bill was defeated in a third debate by a 28-to-11 vote, while 11 abstained.

The bill, which was passed in a second debate on Monday, was defeated by an overwhelming majority after the PDC faction requested a recess so its members could agree on what to do in view of the imminent approval of the bill.

The legislators who abstained include Guillermo Cochez, Alfredo Ehlers, Alcibiades Alvarado, Jose Hill, Gloria Moreno de Lopez, Luis Narvaez, Elba Aizpurua, Benito Vega, Julio Velarde, and Enrique Degracia.

Those who opposed the bill said it was the PRD legislators themselves who secured its defeat by insisting on including in Article 1 a clause exempting from culpability all those who perpetrate offenses "through actions for political purposes." PDC Representative Raul Ossa said that the PRD criticized the very nature of the proposed amnesty by attempting to leave "a loophole" to legalize the ill-gotten fortunes and the homicides perpetrated by Manuel Antonio Noriega and his followers, who undoubtedly were engaged in political activities.

Ossa said that, in view of the failure of the PRD trick, President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares as of 1 September will have to go ahead and declare an amnesty that will benefit everyone. "They will have to face the consequences of such a move," he said.

Alonso Fernandez, of Molirena [Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement] who, together with fellow party member Arturo Vallarino, proposed the bill, said this rejection is an assembly "blunder" and that it represents a new frustration for the families of political prisoners who had set their hopes on an amnesty law. In addition, PRD Representative Alberto Aleman Boyd said that the Legislative Assembly last night went from "the sublime to the ridiculous" and that it is not interested in reconciliation but revenge.

PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez said that the rejection has opened a "Pandora's box," which will bring to light the whole gamut of offenses committed by the current government which, "with the support of the U.S. personnel carriers," has perpetrated all types of injustices against those who deserve to be pardoned.

Gloria Moreno de Lopez, former PDC leader, said that, although she had earlier backed an amnesty law that specified the names of those who would benefit from it, she will never support a proposal in favor of those who perpetrated all kinds of abuses and who could be released by invoking the phrase "acting for political purposes."

Furthermore, PRD's Franklyn Rivera said that it never crossed the minds of those who rejected the amnesty bill last night that in the assembly there are legislators involved in crimes, who receive salaries from several institutions, have profited from reverted properties, are involved in attempted rapes, and in the future will have to account for these crimes.

Alberto Cigarruista, of the Authentic Liberal Party, dismissed the PRD threats and reaffirmed his position that everyone guilty of common crimes, including members of the Guillermo Endara administration, should end up behind bars.

Argentina

Ministry 'Surprised' at Brazil Canceling Cavallo Trip

PY1806033194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (NA)—Economy Ministry sources said today that the Economy Ministry will not respond to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's abrupt decision to suspend Domingo Cavallo's trip scheduled for the end of June. The suspension is presumably due to Brazilian annoyance over Argentina's support for Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to preside over the GATT general directorate.

The unexpected situation surprised the Economy Ministry, but the economic team decided not to comment until the situation clears up because there are still some conflicting reports on the issue.

The abrupt cancellation of Cavallo's visit to Brasilia was understood as a reprisal because Argentina gave its support to Salinas de Gortari instead of supporting Brazilian Economy Minister Rubens Ricupero from Rio de Janeiro to preside over the GATT directorate.

Argentina's support for the Mexican president was made public by President Carlos Menem during the Ibero-American summit this week.

The Brazilian press today published the remarks of several diplomats saying that the Brazilian Government felt "disappointed" at Menem's position, taking into account that Argentina is Brazil's partner in Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and it knew Brazil had proposed Ricupero for the post.

The diplomats also were annoyed because Brazil's seat was empty when Menem made the announcement. At the time, the Brazilian delegation was accompanying President Itamar Franco, who was mourning the sudden death of his nephew and private secretary.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry lowered the tone after the dust raised by the affair settled and justified the suspension of Cavallo's visit by saying it was due to an "incompatibility in the agenda."

Panama's Endara Agrees With Amnesty Bill Rejection

PA1906191394 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara continues his visit to Argentina. Last night Argentine President Carlos Menem hosted a dinner in his honor at the presidential palace. Today (Juan Bautista Joffre), former Argentine ambassador to Panama, will host a luncheon for the Panamanian president. This evening Endara will attend a tango musical performance in the traditional San Telmo neighborhood.

Meanwhile, during statements to local media in Argentina, President Endara said that he agreed with the Legislative Assembly's rejection of the draft amnesty bill. Endara said that the manner in which this draft bill has been presented provided a wide loophole through which many criminals could escape.

Government Backs French Military Intervention in Rwanda

PY1806010094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2205 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] New York, 17 Jun (AFP-NA)—Emilio Cardenas, Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations, said on 17 June that Argentina has expressed its "total support" for the French humanitarian military operation in Rwanda to put an end to the killing of civilians in that African country, but it will not participate in the operation with troops.

"The French mission has humanitarian characteristics and for that reason it is supported by Argentina," Cardenas said after a UN Security Council consultation meeting.

The ambassador did not rule out, however, his country's participation with a logistics contribution. Cardenas explained that Argentina could not send troops because it has reached the "practical ceiling" with its participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Regarding the logistics support, "the only thing we can do is move the hospital operating in Mozambique with the commitment that it will stay in Rwanda only after 15 November. We could consider moving the hospital to Rwanda, but only after that date," Cardenas added. [passage omitted]

Peruvian Citizen Admits SL Membership

PY1706142394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1638 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jun (EFE)—Court sources reported today that Peruvian citizen Jorge Diaz Reategui, who was detained a week ago in the Argentine city of Tucuman, has admitted being a former member of the Shining Path [SL] Maoist group.

In a joint operation on 9 June, Tucuman police and Argentine Federal Police detained Diaz Reategui, 36, at a hotel in Tucuman, 1,412 km northwest of Buenos Aires. He had been meeting with 10 fellow countrymen, who managed to escape.

Tucuman Federal Judge Ricardo Maturana, who is hearing the case, asked the Interpol office in Peru to deny or confirm Diaz Reategui's testimony.

The sources noted: "Diaz Reategui coordinated his visit with his followers. They probably crossed the border on forged certificates of residence and visas from Paraguay to Argentina, via Buenos Aires, from where they traveled to other provincial capitals like Cordoba, Jujuy, Salta, and Tucuman."

The court sources added that the Peruvian Upper Huallaga region, where the former Shining Path member was operating, "is a region where the world's largest coca plantations exist, a region where cocaine paste is processed and subsequently refined for marketing by the Colombian 'cartels.'"

The Argentine Federal Police Press Division added that the Shining Path cell, of which Diaz Reategui was a member, "had been tracked for about one year."

The Tucuman police are still tracking the other 10 people who accompanied Diaz Reategui on the day of his arrest and are attempting to determine what the former Shining Path member and his followers were doing in Tucuman and in other provinces.

Economy Minister Interviewed in London

PY1706025594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 9 Jun 94 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo by CLARIN reporter Maria Laura Avignolo at the Imperial Hotel The Regent in London on 9 June]

[Text] [Avignolo] Why are you travelling abroad so often of late to explain the economic program?

[Cavallo] Because we consider that direct foreign investment in Argentina is of paramount importance. There has been an inflow of foreign capital into our country and we want that to continue. It is very important that the Argentine companies that place shares and bonds on foreign markets have a good reception. To this end, one must not only explain the virtues of each company in particular but also the country's overall situation. Institutions first assess the country where they want to invest to measure the level of "risk" involved and then make estimates. Only when the country is rated as eligible do they look into each company. We have the responsibility of keeping the country's foreign credit open not for the government but rather for Argentine companies.

[Avignolo] The events that took place in Chiapas have cast a shadow on Latin American countries; what can you tell those who say that a situation similar to that in Chiapas may take place in Argentina?

[Cavallo] The riots in Santiago del Estero Province occurred before Chiapas. The media reported about Chiapas and Santiago del Estero as two examples of social upheavals allegedly sparked to protest adjustment programs. We said the state of unrest in Argentina was to protest local authorities' corrupt practices and inefficiency. This was proven in the last elections. The federal trustee managed to redress an adverse situation in four months and the Justicialist Party won the elections.

In Argentina, there may be strikes and protest rallies here and there like in any other country in the world, but we do not foresee a situation that would lead to an armed uprising similar to the one in Chiapas.

[Avignolo] If you are not afraid of a possible Chiapas, why are you in favor of establishing a security secretariat?

[Cavallo] The idea was not to establish a security secretariat but rather to divide the Interior Ministry into two functions. The first person I heard talk about this idea was Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, who was the one who presented it. Then [President Carlos] Menem wanted to implement it. It was not my idea but the president's, based on an initiative by the interior minister himself. Hence, all this fuss about my proposing it is just a groundless invention. But I think it would be quite good to have two ministries—one that would be in charge of political relations with provincial governments and another one in charge of domestic security.

[Avignolo] There are many rumors about the president's poor health. Have foreign investors asked you about this?

[Cavallo] Nobody has asked me about the president's health. In my opinion, he looks very well and healthy and is always in a good mood. I do not know where those rumors came from. I have read magazines that discussed this issue, but I see him nearly every day and he looks absolutely normal. I think that is pure invention.

[Avignolo] The trade deficit grew 378 percent in the first four months of the year. Is this not putting the feasibility of your plan in jeopardy?

[Cavallo] No, on the contrary. It is a symptom of health. The deficit in the current account of the balance of payments is due to the considerable inflow of capital by those interested in investing in our country. This has occurred in the first quarter of the year compared with the same period in 1993. A country in which there are major investments on account of the inflow of capital must of necessity import many capital goods.

[Avignolo] Are you not going to take measures in light of the massive import drive in Argentina?

[Cavallo] No, because imports of capital goods are the ones that are increasing the most. We want to have a high level of investment in our country.

[Avignolo] Can the trade deficit affect the parity of exchange between the peso and the dollar?

[Cavallo] No. The certainty concerning the exchange rate and the economy's progress is precisely what fosters the inflow of capital and high levels of investment. The fact that we pegged the peso to the dollar has been instrumental in creating a climate of confidence and as long as

it is maintained—and I hope it will be for a long, long time—there will be a high level of investment. If we attract considerable domestic savings, they will be financed with domestic savings. Otherwise, as long as investments are financed with foreign savings, there will be a trade deficit in Argentine accounts. However, the fact that there is a deficit does not necessarily mean it is a negative thing.

[Avignolo] But hasn't the inflow of foreign capital slowed over the last few months?

[Cavallo] No, it has increased. Nevertheless, the cost of the funds may have been higher. The balance of trade deficit is an estimate of the inflow of foreign capital.

[Avignolo] Is the Argentine Government afraid of taking measures against dumping [preceding word in English] as other countries do?

[Cavallo] No, we do apply them. What happens is that we rigorously follow the procedures allowed by GATT. We are organizing the system dealing with subsidies and measures against dumping in a very efficient way because previous administrations just resorted to devaluing the peso or banning imports.

[Avignolo] Do bankers ask you whether the peso will be devalued?

[Cavallo] They did not ask me that until last year because it is clear that markets in Argentina are not expecting any devaluation. It is worth comparing the evolution of interest rates in pesos in Argentina and in Mexico. While over the last few weeks, interest rates in pesos have increased quite sharply in Mexico, they have been maintained at a stable level in Argentina and neither Chiapas nor the murder of [Institutional Revolutionary Party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo] Colosio or the drop in U.S. interest rates have had any bearing on them. This means that there is no expectation of a devaluation of the peso in Argentina as is the case in Mexico. Bankers have become aware that Argentina has a very special monetary system.

Unrest Reported in Catamarca, Salta, Santiago

PY1706115394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2358 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (NA)—Catamarca municipal workers were involved in serious incidents outside the provincial government house today. The demonstrators said they would take over the city hall building tomorrow unless they receive their May salaries. Meanwhile, the tense situation continues in Salta and Santiago del Estero.

In Catamarca, municipal workers protested outside government house, city hall, and the legislature. They lit fires with the garbage that has accumulated in the streets as a consequence of the indefinite garbage workers strike that started on 14 June. [passage omitted]

The fires made aerosol cans explode. The fire damaged the government house main door before firefighters arrived. Police and border police agents confronted the demonstrators to prevent serious incidents. [passage omitted]

A large percentage of public workers continued their "work to rule" today, a measure they will continue until they receive their May salaries.

The protest has virtually paralyzed the provincial public administration. It includes assemblies and rallies in work areas to demand their back salaries. [passage omitted]

In Salta, public workers went on strike and mobilized in front of the provincial legislature demanding a basic salary of 500 pesos.

Miguel Quiroga, ATE-Salta [Association of State Workers-Salta] social action secretary, said the protest "seeks the payment of salaries on time because health workers and pensioners did not receive their salaries yet."

In Santiago del Estero, the State Unions Front organized a rally for tonight. The rally follows a strike involving teachers and judicial branch workers that is being widely observed.

The strike was to protest the transfer of the pensions fund to the nation, to demand an emergency salary increase, and against the policy of privatizations announced by Federal Trustee Juan Scharetti.

Menem Passes Medical, Plays Soccer Afterward

PY1806035194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1853 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (NA)—Government House sources reported that early today President Carlos Menem underwent a medical checkup to renew his pilot's license and played a soccer game with former professional soccer players after successfully passing it.

The spokesmen told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that Menem showed up at the metropolitan airport early this morning to undergo a medical checkup in order to fulfill aeronautical regulations.

Immediately afterward the president went to the "La Celia" ranch in Buenos Aires' Ezeiza district owned by Deputy Dulce Visconti and entrepreneur Alejandro Granados, where he played a soccer game. [passage omitted]

Swears in New Officials

PY1706180994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1109 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (NA)—President Carlos Menem has administered the oath of office to new Justice Minister Rodolfo Barra. He replaces Jorge Maiorano, who in turn becomes the ombudsman.

During the same ceremony, Menem administered the oath of office to the new culture secretary, Jorge Asis. He replaces Jose Maria Castineira de Dios, who has resigned. The ceremony was held yesterday at the White Hall of government house, which was packed with government officials and guests.

At the main rostrum, the president was joined by new government officials Maiorano and Castineira de Dios. Menem enthusiastically extolled their performance. [passage omitted]

Deputies' Bloc Calls for Menem Impeachment

PY1706154394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1057 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (NA)—The bloc of Socialist Unity (US) deputies has presented a draft resolution proposing the impeachment of President of the Republic Carlos Menem for the alleged crime of "misconduct in office."

Hector Polino, the U.S. deputy for the federal capital, sponsored the resolution. He explained that the petition is based "on the liberal use of emergency decrees" by the executive branch "and a wide variety of anticonstitutional decrees with which Congress is being overwhelmed."

Concerning the latter point, the socialist legislator emphasized "the liberal use of illegal legislative delegate powers and the practice of partial promulgations of bills that have been approved by Congress and then partially or totally vetoed by the executive branch."

Polino stressed: "Decree No. 660, eliminating a dollar guarantee established by the retirement law for those joining the National Bank's AFJP [Retirement and Pension Fund Managing Companies], is among the 310 emergency decrees that President Menem has issued since July 1989."

Mining Environmental Protection Bill Presented

PY1806015994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1105 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (NA)—The government has presented a mining update and mining environmental protection bill, eliminating the state monopoly on radioactive minerals and providing a legislative framework for environmental reclamation in a highly contaminating activity.

In addition to ending the state monopoly on the mining and marketing of radioactive minerals that has been in effect since 1956, the bill is aimed at changing about 20 National Mining Code articles.

Upon presenting the bill, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo emphasized the significance of adjusting the legislation that governs this activity in order to facilitate investment in an area that requires significant capital.

Cavallo said: "More than 60 large international companies, which committed themselves to investing $1.5 billion, have been establishing themselves in our country."

Concerning this data, the minister noted: "This is the best way of promoting the development of regional economies."

The ceremony to present the bill was held on 16 June in the Economy Ministry's Padilla Hall. Present at the ceremony were Mining Secretary Eduardo Angel Mazza and Natural Resources and Environment Secretary Maria Julia Alsogaray.

Manuel Mondino, the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) chairman, was invited to the ceremony but sent a letter expressing his support for the bill.

During the ceremony, Mazza was the only official who addressed, although superficially, the significance of eliminating the state monopoly on uranium and thorium.

Concerning this point, the mining secretary merely admitted: "It is a very sensitive issue." He emphasized: "We have the CNEA's agreement."

For her part, engineer Alsogaray ended her brief speech by emphasizing: "Environmental problems cannot be solved unless economic factors are correctly interpreted."

Despite the removal of the current monopoly on nuclear elements, the state, through the CNEA, will police and monitor these activities and advise provincial organizations.

The companies interested in mining activities will present an environmental impact statement in order to receive an Environmental Certificate for a period established by this law's regulations. The Environment Certificate will be issued by the appropriate provincial authorities.

In addition, those who will exploit mines with radioactive minerals will present a program on the reclamation of the natural areas effected by the waste material.

Bolivia

U.S. Extends Coca Eradication Deadline

PY1706165994 La Paz HOY in Spanish 8 Jun 94 p 15

[Text] Government Minister German Quiroga has reported that the U.S. Government has extended once again the deadline for eradicating 5,000 hectares of coca and 20,000 square meters of coca nurseries, this time until September 1994.

Quiroga explained that once the commitment is signed, Washington will disburse the $20 million aid for the local balance of payment.

Quiroga explained that thanks to the government negotiations, it was possible to get the U.S. to extend the deadline.

Quiroga recalled that once the 31 March 1994 deadline expired, the Bolivian Government began negotiations to have it extended until next September.

Quiroga also explained that the conditions established by the U.S. Government are not mandatory for the government.

He added: "We either accept the resources and carry out the policy or we simply do not accept it and we do not carry it out."

Coca Growers Said Willing To Replace Coca

PY1706174594 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 8 Jun 94 p A6

[Excerpts] La Paz, 7 Jun (LOS TIEMPOS)—Approximately 20,000 peasants—some 20 percent of the coca growers of the Cochabamba tropical region and La Paz department—today expressed their willingness "to replace coca with other products" on condition the government carries out, in the short term, "effective alternative development plans" in the production zones.

Several coca growers' leaders told LOS TIEMPOS that their unions "will do this if the Government Ministry and the Social Defense Secretariat" fulfill their commitments with the peasants.

The union leader said: "They just make promises but have done nothing to carry out the projects and works established in the agreements and documents signed with officials in March and May of this year." [passage omitted]

The government announced recently that at least $600 million has been invested in alternative development plans in the Chapare region of Cochabamba and the Yungas region of La Paz.

The official spokesmen added that only about 10 percent [as published] of that amount—about $100 million—has "really" been used in projects to replace coca.

The coca leaders added that most of the plans "failed, to the misfortune of the peasants and the country."

Government Admits Mistakes in Alternative Development

PY1706221394 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 Jun 94 National Section p 1

[Text] La Paz, 6 Jun (JATHA)—The coca growers who said the government spent $100 million on alternative development in the last 10 years came out short in their estimate when the government disclosed that it spent $207 million on that project in the last 10 years.

This information was provided by Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz who invited the media to visit the Chapare "to see what had been done with that money, projects such as electrification, roads, health clinics, schools, etc."

In view of the doubt emerging about the multimillion dollar investment and the "great projects" carried out in the last 10 years, Soliz said: "As in any operation some mistakes were made, wrong criteria were used but we cannot deny the existence of alternative development because of that." The questions were asked by the coca growers who recently said through their leaders that coca replacement or agricultural conversion should have been done on the 26,000 hectares that were voluntarily eradicated in the tropical region of Cochabamba.

But according to the technical reports of the institutions in charge of carrying out alternative development such as PDAR [Alternative Development Program], the IBTA [Bolivian Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] of the Chapare, and the United Nations, coca replacement was only done on 2,000 hectares.

Leader Felipe Caceres said: "This means that 24,000 hectares are full of weeds while the peasants who eradicated coca from them are bankrupt, without work, and sometimes forced to get involved in illegal activities."

Were those $207 million really invested in the Chapare? asked Secretary Soliz again today. His response was: "Yes, the records and the evaluation made by the organizations involved in the program show they were."

But the coca growers said the majority of the organizations involved in alternative development spent more money on paying their employees' salaries and travelling expenses than on the projects themselves.

Soliz replied that paying salaries is part of the work on alternative development.

Soliz said that because there are different criteria, peasant leaders have been invited to participate in or become members of the executive board of the Fonadal [National Fund for Alternative Development].

He added: "This is how they will be able to check the projects, and express their opinions which is something that was not done in the past. But from now on they will be the main participants in this process."

Government Minister German Quiroga said that in the last 10 years more investments have been made in alternative development than in any other Latin American country and this is "a demonstration that alternative development was made and will continue to be made."

Quiroga added that this at least "shows that the government struggle is not against coca growers but against those who use coca to make other products."

Drug Chairman Criticizes Government Drug Policy

PY1706194494 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] Deputy Guido Camacho, chairman of the Drug Trafficking Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, said yesterday the government is "openly biased" toward U.S. interests over the drug enforcement policy. He demanded a new bilateral agreement to preserve the interests of coca farmers.

Camacho said it is the duty of the executive branch to maintain an atmosphere of peace and to meet the needs of all social classes of the country.

"I see the government is currently openly biased toward U.S. Government interests, thus forgetting its duty to solve the problems of coca farmers," Camacho said.

Camacho thus replied when asked about future negotiations between the Bolivian Government and the U.S. Embassy on drug enforcement once the agreement signed during the administration of former President Jaime Paz Zamora expires.

He said he believes the elimination of excess coca crops in the Chapare region is more of a priority for the United States than for Bolivia.

"Eradication must consider not only the exchange of money for each hectare of illegal coca. We need comprehensive solutions to the social problems of thousands of families in coca-producing areas."

He said coca eradication must not create social or economic problems for large sectors of the Bolivian population. This depends on the government's ability to negotiate a new agreement for the eradication of illegal coca crops.

Tenth Workers Congress Defends Coca Crops

PY1806020194 La Paz HOY in Spanish 10 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Tarija—The 10th Workers Congress that probably will end in the next few hours has defended coca crops and demanded the industrialization of this controversial leaf that, according to peasants, is constantly threatened by foreign interests.

Thus, the Workers Congress passed a resolution condemning the "merciless intervention of North American troops in the coca zones, openly ignoring our national sovereignty."

For Bolivia, coca is not cocaine; it is a natural product and resource that is part of the Bolivian national culture and must be defended by endorsing its industrialization and decriminalization.

According to the workers, coca must be defended as part of the cultural patrimony of the region's countries. The labor representatives expressed their wish to internationally decriminalize this Peruvian and Bolivian leaf.

Activities by nongovernment organizations (NGO's) in the coca-producing areas were harshly criticized by the labor representatives, who demanded their expulsion because these NGO's want to divide the strong coca farmers' movement.

The resolution approved by the Workers Congress calls for the total implementation of alternative development programs because they are considered a serious method to replace the coca economy.

The Chapare, a controversial region as a result of the presence of coca and drug trafficking, was declared a national emergency zone to safeguard a possible militarization of the area on the pretext of replacing the coca economy.

The workers also asked that peasant markets depend directly on peasant organizations. Peasant representatives also expressed their concern at the lack of roads.

Reported Accord Seeks 'Lenient' Report on MIR Drug Links

PY1806005594 La Paz HOY in Spanish 9 Jun 94 p 14

[Text] Facts on 8 June proved the existence of a political agreement between the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] in the narcolinks [alleged MIR involvement with drug traffickers] investigations. The politicians involved later secretly confirmed the agreement. The details of this agreement, which is beginning to yield results, remain unknown.

MIR legislators told HOY about the agreement with the MNR for the purpose of obtaining a "lenient report" regarding the "narcolinks" subject in exchange for support to impeach two Supreme Court justices.

Two legislators, who asked not to be identified, said they were "disappointed" with the development of the investigation that, according to them, was supposed to "clearly determine" that the MIR leaders charged with being involved with drug traffickers were not guilty.

Moreover, MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] Deputy Juan del Granado admitted the existence of "regretful evidence that nonlegal matters related to the impeachment process are being used" in the "narcolinks" investigations currently under way.

The agreement, which was a mere rumor until now, became obvious on 8 June when MIR Senators Leopoldo Lopez, Jose Luis Carvajal, and Gonzalo Valda reappeared at the impeachment sessions despite their announcement that they would not even endorse it with their presence.

What is more, MIR Deputy Hugo Carvajal announced that his party would vote in favor of sentencing the court justices.

Moreover, a few hours later, MIR legislators approved the education reform bill that had been approved by the Chamber of Deputies, after voting against it in previous sessions.

According to MIR leaders, the narcolinks subject "was handled shamefully" through an agreement whose details still are unknown.

According to Deputy del Granado, one of the main protagonists of the investigation, there are clues that lead one to believe in the existence of some sort of agreement between the MNR and the MIR.

Among them, he mentioned the delay in drafting the final report, which should have been ready several days ago, but oddly enough is constantly postponed. Del Granado said: "This is very suspicious."

Del Granado said that in addition to this, there is the little conviction shown by Senator Gonzalo Valda when he sought an injunction preventing the enforcement of Resolution 113-94 allowing the alternate senators to occupy the seats of those senators objected to by [Supreme Court Justices Ernesto] Poppe and [Edgar] Oblitas' defense.

There is also a numeric issue that would "justify" a MNR-MIR agreement. Two-thirds of the Senate's votes—18—are necessary to condemn the court justices. Since the governing coalition does not have that number of votes, the announcement by Carvajal could be feasible.

Although the agreement's exact terms have not been leaked, sources consulted by HOY said it is allegedly designed on one hand to obtain the most lenient report possible on the "narcolinks," and the MIR in exchange would give its support to the impeachment process, the education reform bill's approval, and constitutional reform.

When asked about the subject, Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland] leader Carlos Palenque said: "It would be terrible for democracy and the political organizations involved."

MBL To Leave Government if Accord Confirmed

PY1806022994 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 10 Jun 94 p A9

[Excerpt] MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] Deputy Erwin Saucedo warned on 9 June that the MBL will leave the government if the political "agreement" is confirmed between the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] to exclude some MIR leaders from the final report by the Constitution Committee on the so-called "narcolinks" case [between the MIR and drug traffickers during Paz Zamora's government].

The MBL deputy confirmed his position, stating that his party had decided to participate in the current government based on the MNR's conviction to fight corruption in all its forms and not to conceal such phenomenon that ruled the behavior of several leaders of the defunct Patriotic Accord.

"I think this is a subject that can break an accord (between the MBL and the MIR). If there are agreements and collusions not to fight corruption or if reports on the political settlements are confirmed, we will review the accord," Saucedo said.

The MBL deputy then reaffirmed his party's decision to begin an impeachment process against former President Jaime Paz Zamora if it is established that he had a criminal relationship with presumed drug trafficker Isaac "Oso" Chavarria.

However, the MBL deputy did not limit himself to that warning, but added that MIR congressmen, Constitution Committee members Edil Sandoval and Oliverio Iriarte, cannot throw overboard a serious work developed within that committee to find the truth about the "narcolinks."

Saucedo's concern stems from reports that meetings were held several days ago between MIR and MNR members in an effort to exclude former President Jaime Paz Zamora from the final Constitution Committee report in exchange for support of the government by the three MIR senators in the impeachment process against the Supreme Court justices.

It also was said that one of the meetings was reportedly held over the past weekend at the house of Senate President Juan Carlos Duran and that MIR bloc leader Carlos Borth was present at that meeting. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1806000394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Bolivia monitored through 16 June.

The Central Bank reported that net international reserves were $498 million through May, the highest in the past few years. The reserves have risen $37.2 million so far this year, an increase of 10 percent compared with December 1993, and $22.2 million in May, an increase of 5.75 percent. The level of reserves has been positive in all months except for January. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 May 94 National Section p 1)

Finance Secretary Gaby Candia reported that public investments totalled $60 million in the year's first quarter, 10 percent of the amount projected for this year. She explained that this conservative disbursement was caused by the late approval of the general budget. A total of $566 million was approved for the current public investment program, an increase of 18 percent compared with 1993. According to official reports, 52 percent will

be invested in economic development, 44 percent in human development, and 3.2 percent in sustainable development. This program seeks to guarantee an economic growth of 4 percent with projects to improve the economic infrastructure. La Paz accounts for 23.2 percent of the investments; Santa Cruz 22.7 percent, and Cochabamba 22.7 percent. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 May 94 National Section p 1)

A record monthly stock exchange operation of $100.2 million was registered in the Bolivian Stock Exchange Market late in May. It rose $36.1 million compared with April, an increase of 58 percent. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 4 Jun 94 p B4)

Brazil

Canceling Argentine Visit Unrelated To Support for Salinas

PY1806034694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2149 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Jun (AFP-NA)—The Brazilian Foreign Ministry on 17 June expressed its malaise over the stance taken by Argentina during the Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) last week concerning its endorsement of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari as a candidate for the GATT presidency.

Notwithstanding this, a Brazilian diplomatic spokesman told AFP NEWS AGENCY that the suspension of Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's visit to Brasilia—scheduled for the end of June—until July was a "coincidence" and had nothing to do with the other issue, as had been hinted at by the local press on 17 June.

The Itamaraty (seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry) spokesman reported that having officially announced the candidacy of Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero for GATT's presidency on 7 June, the Brazilian Government informed its Latin American counterparts.

On that occasion, Argentina and Mexico—without making any type of commitments—allegedly had been in favor of Ricupero's candidacy to replace Irishman Peter Sutherland.

This is why it was considered in "poor taste" that another candidate was proposed and supported in the absence of the Brazilian delegation (when President Itamar Franco left the summit due to the unexpected death of his nephew and private secretary, Ariosto Franco).

The same source said, nonetheless, that this will neither affect Brazil's good relations with Argentina nor the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] integration process, nor negotiations on the establishment of a South American Free Trade Zone sponsored by Brazil.

The suspension of Cavallo's trip to Brazil was made at the request of the Brazilian Finance Ministry, which at the time originally scheduled for his visit—the end of June—will be putting the final touches on the implementation of the new currency at par with the dollar—the real—scheduled for 1 July.

Cavallo's visit surely will take place at the end of July after the Mercosur summit in Buenos Aires that will be attended by Argentine President Carlos Menem, Brazilian President Itamar Franco, Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle.

Government Buys 7.5 Million Doses of Cuban Vaccine

PY1606232694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 15 Jun (EFE)—Brazil has purchased 7.5 million dose of vaccines to control a meningitis outbreak in Rio de Janeiro. This information was released today by Gustavo Sierra, vice president of the "Carlos J. Finlay" institute, which produces the vaccines.

Sierra said: "Everything will be better now because there is the idea of organizing a program for fighting the outbreaks and even for steady use of the vaccine."

He added: "This order opens a new stage in the use of Cuban vaccines in Brazil, where they will be used for controlling a meningitis outbreak in Rio de Janeiro."

Gustavo Sierra, who heads the National Group for Human and Animal Vaccines, said the vaccines are sold practically all over Latin America, where they are in various phases of use, medical registration, or distribution.

He reported that approximately 10 million doses of vaccines have been exported so far, adding that if the vaccines are properly used in a program, they can not only control outbreaks but even the disease itself in the long term.

The "Finlay" institute will advise the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro in a $325 million "technology transfer" project that will permit local laboratories to produce the vaccine developed by Cuban scientists for controlling meningitis.

According to sources in Rio de Janeiro's Secretariat of Industry and Commerce, the state government is planning to create a mixed enterprise for selling the vaccine and for vaccinating some 5 million people under 14 before 1995.

Unrest in Markets Attributed to Franco's 'Old Habits'

PY1706123494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jun 94 p A-3

[From "Notes and Information" page, editorial: "Economic Terrorism Under Way"]

[Text] Much of the unrest in the market and among those who seriously worry about the future of Brazilian economy should not be attributed just to President Itamar Franco's re-implementation of old habits. The president is partly responsible, perhaps more than partly because he heads the government, but to his excellency's responsibility should be added that of those—in Congress or in sectors of the bureaucratic machinery—who wish to reattribute to the public sector its former prevalence over the private sector. It is this wish that explains the campaign, which we could call a form of terrorism, that has just begun to take shape and will reach a climax during the period immediately preceding and following the implementation of the real.

The executive branch views entrepreneurs as people who evade taxes, create cartels, and abusively increases prices. To fight tax evasion, the government uses the Federal Revenue Department, the behavior of which clearly reflects the mentality of the highest bureaucratic spheres of Brasilia: A tax collection goal has been established, and it must be achieved at any price. Control was first intensified, and there is nothing wrong with that; on the contrary. As this was not strong enough and the current laws—no matter how strict or lax—did not achieve the desired target, a provisional measure was drafted to transform what was a crime into a tort [ilicito civil]. This provisional measure also established that those who collect taxes or social contributions and who subsequently do not transfer them to the Treasury or the Social Security Ministry will be sentenced to 90 days in jail. Fear of being arrested, however, probably will not result in increased revenues. The government now wishes to make credit and debt operations a triangular operation: If A has a debt with the Federal Treasury and is owed some money by B, the Treasury will approach B and collect some of what he owes A. It is not important if this procedure clashes with the Fiscal Code or with good sense in general. It does not matter if this move removes B's "privilege" of not paying his debt to A on the day it becomes due or if it extracts the resources A needs to finance his company, the Federal Revenue department has money to collect from A and will get it from B. Legally, everything is resolved through the provisional measure, which Congress will not bother to analyze because of its total lack of interest. The provisional measure will be redrafted as many times as the president and the Federal Revenue Department deem necessary. This is "Itamar's popular democracy."

Control on economic activities is becoming stricter by the day. The recently sanctioned Antitrust Law has been defended as not having introduced anything new. It merely consolidates current laws, seeking to ensure free competition. It just so happens, however, that Delegated Law Number 4 and Law 8880/94 (which created the Real Value Unit—URV) were not revoked. Both these laws prevent infractions against the economic order. The result of all that is that the Cade [Administrative council for Economic Defense] is preparing to control oligopolies (a key word meaning activity against the people). It is also preparing to order the Sunab [National Supply Superintendency] to strictly enforce the law against store owners. The campaign slogan is a war against "abusive prices," the exact meaning of which no one seems to know, and the definition of which cannot be found in any law. The closest the government has come to explaining the characteristics of this "crime" is contained in an article of Law 8880, which states: "It is deemed abusive to unjustifiably increase prices to a level where the price equivalent in URV's is greater than the average increase registered from September to December 1993." Thus, the plan that did not freeze prices will punish those who cannot explain why their prices have gone up. Bureaucrats are not concerned about "unjustified increases," they are only concerned about "abusive increases" which can only be identified after comparing the current price to the September/December average price. To do so, no cost analysis is conducted. In other words, despite all that is being said about the market law, prices will remain frozen until guidelines to clarify this policy are released.

Worse still is the government definition of an oligopoly. The executive branch believes an oligopoly is synonymous of a cartel and a situation where competition among companies that work in an area of business simply does not exist. A disinformation campaign against oligopolies has been continuing since [former] President Collor's installation. As a result, oligopolies have become cartels in all areas where there is no competition. The Cade will focus on those oligopolies and on the companies of the "highest concentration sectors." These two types of companies will not be allowed to increase their June prices beyond the September/December average. If they are lucky, their managers will manage to justify increases. If bureaucracy spots them, however, they will be charged with infractions against the economic order, fined, and forced to comply with the rules or run the risk of facing a warrant for preventive arrest. When the Real Plan is effectively implemented, Sunab and Cade will pursue those who abuse the people's patience—and all this will happen without a price freeze and in the defense of free competition. This is just one more aspect of "Itamar's popular democracy," which is closing in on "speculators..."

Editorial Criticizes Antitrust Law as Disadvantageous

PY1606143994 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Jun 94 p A3

[Editorial: "Control of Prices and Investment"]

[Text] It is necessary to create jobs, but to this end it is necessary to have capital, which we do not yet have in sufficient quantity for accelerated growth. The only solution for resolving this problem is to make use of foreign savings—not in the form of loans attracted by interest rates that are much higher than in other markets, but in the form of direct investment, which brings not only the funds for creating jobs but the technology with which it is possible to face international competition. Now the first result of the law on the so-called abuse of economic power will be to push foreign capital away from our country.

So far the strongest obstacle to foreign capital has been a very high inflation rate and protectionism, which impeded production under the proper conditions. We liberalized our economy, and in some sectors it was possible to reduce domestic prices by importing modern components that made it possible for us to compete abroad, streamlining production costs. The Real Plan has brought hope for the return of a "civilized" inflation rate. We can hope to once again receive foreign investment, which in recent years has dropped remarkably. Yet Congress has just approved an antitrust law that actually seeks to reinstate a price control system that is even more harmful than direct control, because it produces uncertainty. Under such conditions the country will push foreign capital even farther away. In order to attract foreign capital, Brazil has for several years been said to have—unlike other countries—a large potential domestic market. It so happens that this advantage is disappearing with the creation of Mercosur [Common Market of the South], as foreign investors can settle in one of the other Mercosur signatory countries, which sooner or later will be joined by Chile, in order to conquer the Brazilian market. Foreign investors will undoubtedly choose the countries offering the best conditions, especially those without price control. Now having more than 30 percent of the market is a mortal sin in Brazil, a sin that condemns an enterprise to several suspicions that can result not only in heavy monetary fines but also in the stealing of its technology...

We do not know whether our lawmakers thought about this when they approved a law that condemned us to remain behind technological progress in the modern world. It is good to know that this has favored our Mercosur partners, which will be able to create jobs, enlarge their domestic markets, and conquer the Brazilian market without any difficulty, unless we resign our participation in an organization that is only one step forward toward the globalization of the economy.

Commentator Decries Lula's Foreign Debt Proposal

PY1706130394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jun 94 p A5

[Article by Paulo Francis]

[Text] PT [Workers Party] candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said that, if elected, he will negotiate the foreign debt with U.S. President Bill Clinton because he might be more understanding than bankers. Only inexperienced people, unaware of how the world and U.S. society operate, would propose such a shortcut. By the way, this is a typical feature of PT programs like the one that will distribute land to landless people without even realizing that farming calls for capital, expertise, machinery, and a market—modern features that educated people have known since the time of Adam Smith (1723-1790), the father of economists.

The Brazilian foreign debt is not owed to the U.S. President but to private banks, most of which are European or Asian. U.S. banks coordinate creditors, but they cannot impose anything on them. To summarize, the Brazilian foreign debt is a private matter. Since the time of Joao Figueiredo's government, no Brazilian Administration has understood how to manage the debt, and Washington has already tried to facilitate agreements. The most noticeable effort, which the Brazilian Government accepted after repeatedly promising that it would never do so, is the Brady plan, designed by George Bush's Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. Under this plan, indebted countries can buy their own debt certificates with discounts of up to 35 percent, substantially reducing the principal and postponing capital repayment through payment of interest. After faltering under the economic leadership of several amateurs, Brazil became a Brady plan client. If the teams of [former Presidents] Sarney and Collor were unfit—just as Franco's team is—one does not have to be clairvoyant to imagine the type of person Lula would select to contact bankers, considering the PT's exotic ideas on the subject. Brazil's largest creditor is the Bank of Brazil branch in New York, which can take the burden and remain silent.

Lula seems not to have even the slightest idea of our real debt situation. Negotiations call for endorsement by the IMF. Without that any arrangements are merely provisional and "initial accords" that are advertised as solutions but which—months later—appear to fail like everything that has been negotiated since the political opening in 1985. The IMF will back Brazil but only through a drastic reduction in our public deficit and with an accelerated policy of privatization that may reduce inflation to a single-digit figure (less than 10 percent monthly). Candidate Lula is against everything the IMF wants. If Lula is elected, the impasse will continue and—what is even more serious—Brazil will remain outside the international capital market, which is flourishing from Mexico to China.

Chile

President Eduardo Frei Returns From Cartagena

PY1706130194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Mauro Lombardi from President Eduardo Frei's residence—live]

[Text] President Eduardo Frei arrived this morning an hour and a half ahead of schedule from Cartagena, Colombia, where he attended the Fourth Ibero-American Summit.

We were told that his plane arrived early because it did not make the scheduled stopover. President Frei arrived in his house at 0625 this morning where he was welcomed by Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma, who arrived five minutes earlier.

We were told that the reassumption of power by the president was made in the hall of the airport with the participation of all cabinet ministers. President Frei reassumed the presidency from Interior Minister German Correa. Frei also met at the airport with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle who is making a stopover on his way to Uruguay.

Foreign Minister Discusses Cuban Refugees

PY1806033894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2138 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Santiago, 17 Jun (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said today that the situation of the Chilean Consulate in Havana, which is occupied by eight Cubans, remains unchanged. Figueroa added that both foreign ministries continue to be in contact to try to find a definitive solution.

During a meeting with the local press, Figueroa said the basic discussion on the issue is "the upholding of international law," which has always characterized Chilean foreign policy.

Foreign Minister Figueroa said the Cuban citizens, who have been occupying the Chilean Consulate since 15 June, are not under asylum. He said this is a humanitarian gesture on the part of Chile and the situation will continue until a reasonable solution is found.

Figueroa added that because of the Cuban Government's refusal to grant safe conduct papers to allow the refugees to abandon the island, Chilean Consul Patricio Pozo has urged the refugees to leave the consulate peacefully. Figueroa stated that Pozo also has assured the refugees that the Cuban Government has promised not to take reprisals against them.

Asked whether the Chilean Government has established a certain deadline for solving the issue, Figueroa said no deadlines have been established, only objectives.

He said that one of these objectives is to achieve a peaceful solution and the other is to offer guarantees for the eight Cubans occupying the building.

Foreign Minister Figueroa stated: "We want to avoid making any explicit statement encouraging the occupation of other consulates or embassies."

Asked whether the Chilean Government will require Cuba to "adopt steps toward democracy" as a prior step before resuming diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level, Figueroa said: "At no time has the Chilean Government made such a proposal to Cuba."

Chile and Cuba severed their diplomatic ties on 11 September 1973. They restored diplomatic ties at the consular level in July 1991 after then-Chilean President Patricio Aylwin met Fidel Castro within the framework of the first Ibero-American Summit, held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

General Stange Resumes Carabineros Duties

PY1706163894 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [Carabineros Director] General Rodolfo Stange has stated that his honor has been cleared. Government sources only said that Judge Alfredo Pfeiffer's ruling has removed an obstacle in the impasse between the Carabineros director and the executive branch. Politicians and relatives of the three beheaded professionals have reacted against the judge's ruling.

Gen. Stange arrived at 0830 this morning at the Carabineros building. He said he was happy with Judge Pfeiffer's ruling, which definitely acquits him of charges of serious disregard of military duties.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] General, many people insist that this is more an ethical than a legal problem. What do you think?

[Stange] I believe testifying before a court is ethical, and that is what I did. I cannot comment on the court ruling. I only want the administration of justice in a situation in which I had been involved in a case and pre-judged. I only want my name and honor to be cleared.

[Reporter] Will you assume your duties in a normal manner?

[Stange] The normal duties I have always had because I have never left my command. [end recording]

Concerning Judge Pfeiffer's ruling, there has been no reaction from La Moneda Palace. The Defense Ministry released a brief communique which states that following the acquittal of the Carabineros director, an important obstacle has been removed in finding a solution to the impasse created between Gen. Stange and the government. No other statements have been made, although it was learned that, notwithstanding the ruling, the government maintains its position that Gen. Stange should leave the Carabineros. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1806000694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Chile monitored through 16 June.

The Italian multinational company Parmalat S.P.A. bought 51 percent of the shares of the Chilean company Soprocar Inc., which makes and sells Copalca dairy products. On 25 May, Parmalat President Calisto Tanzi and Soprocar President Hernan Bozzo signed the agreement through which the Italian company officially entered the Chilean dairy products market under the name of Parmalat Chile. Soprocar general manager Gonzalo Martino reported that the initial investment totals $20 million. (Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 26 May 94 Economic Section p 4)

The National Statistics Institute, INE, reported that the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in the February-April period, an increase of 0.1 percentage point compared with the previous quarter, and 0.9 percentage point compared with the same period last year. This is the highest rate since September 1992. The number of employed people was 4,962,230, an increase of 2.6 percent compared with 1993. This means that 126,490 jobs were created. The INE also reported that the unemployment rate dropped in five of the 13 regions during this period. (Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 3)

Mexican and Chilean aeronautics authorities signed an agreement through which Chilean airlines will transport passengers from Mexico to San Jose de Costa Rica and Guatemala on their routes from Mexico to Chile. Air traffic between Chile and Mexico has increased considerably in the past few months. A total of 11,714 passengers and 551 metric tons of cargo were transported in the first four months of the year, an increase of 5 percent and 65 percent, respectively, compared with the same period last year. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Jun 94)

The Chilean companies Copec, Sipetrol, and Enap, which made up the Latin American Oil Company, Clapsa, and the U.S. company Oryx Energy won the bid to prospect for oil in Ecuador for four years. They signed a risk contract in which they will invest $45 million. The Chilean companies share the contract with 32.5 percent and the U.S. company with 50 percent. The area to be prospected totals 2,000 square kilometers. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 10 Jun 94)

Colombia

Gaviria Urges Citizens To Participate in Elections

PA1906024394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0133 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Speech to the nation by President Cesar Gaviria; place not given—live]

[Text] Colombians: In spite of our sadness, I want to speak briefly with you tonight to tell you that we must not lose our faith and hope. This country has known how to successfully face adversity in the past. I am sure that as long as we don't lose confidence in our potential, we have what it takes to come out winning.

Once again, I reiterate my invitation to my fellow countrymen to exercise their constitutional right to vote in tomorrow's election. It is the duty of each and every Colombian who is eligible to vote. The right to vote is free and voluntary. It is a reaffirmation of our democratic and participative vocation. He who votes must do so based on his own dictates and convictions. This is a right that makes us masters of our fate and interests.

We again have before us the opportunity to participate in the presidential election; the most important political decision in our country for the next four years. The runoff mechanism is another result of the important changes introduced by the new Constitution. The National Government will once again ensure total and complete impartiality and will exert strict control to guarantee transparency in the development of these elections. We will demand that political parties, the media, and citizens fully comply with the existing norms on behavior. Any attack against the right to vote freely will be severely punished as stipulated by the law.

Compatriots, we are experiencing moments of great enthusiasm and credibility in the country. We have again overwhelmingly demonstrated our solidarity when thousands of Colombians suffered the unexpected and brutal attack by nature a few days ago. Although our team lost its first game, we have faith, trust, and conviction that it will recover in the games to come. Victory alluded us today, but we are sure that our boys will know how to achieve the results we all hope for.

The faith, trust, and conviction we have in them is what we must show at the elections tomorrow. I hope that the force accompanying the Colombian team will be equaled by that which is deposited in the ballot boxes in every corner of our nation. As president, I address my fellow countrymen and invite them to vote with the assurance that you will exercise your right to freedom appropriately. Thank you and good night.

Stresses Importance of Elections

PA1906143294 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Interview with President Cesar Gaviria by unidentified domestic reporters at Bolivar Plaza in Santa Fe de Bogota upon his voting in the presidential elections; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Gaviria] ...in Colombia's democracy. Whoever is elected will have the support not only of the president but of all the Colombian people.

[Reporter] Is the secretary general of the OAS concerned about Haiti?

[Gaviria] The situation in the country is pretty good. I think we are going to have a day when the Colombians will be able to freely say who they want to be Colombia's next president. This is Colombians' most important decision, which they make every four years. I trust that

all the Colombians will fulfill this sacred duty. We will adopt a decision that is important for ourselves, for our children, and for future generations, in order that the country may continue gaining credibility and trust. This is a process in which we must make progress diligently.

The fact that elections are being held in this environment represents significant progress when compared to sad times in the past.

[Reporter] What about the soccer defeat?

[Gaviria] I feel sad about it, like all Colombians. I hope that in the two remaining games the team will recover its potential and capabilities, leave behind past problems, and resolve future problems so that we may secure victories in the two remaining games.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Gaviria] It is very probable.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Gaviria] Yes. I think it is a disturbing factor, but I think the citizens know that voting is not just a right, it is also an obligation. The decision to be made today is too important to ignore for soccer-related reasons.

[Reporter] As secretary general of the OAS, are you concerned about the situation in Haiti?

[Gaviria] We Colombians do believe that the Colombian people will vote and [words indistinct].

Polling Stations Close Amid 'Absolute Normalcy'

PA1906213494 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer] Attention: The polling stations just closed throughout the country. In a moment, the Caracol Network, which is number one in the elections, will begin to report figures so you can make your own additions with paper and pencil in hand.

Caracol listeners, it is now 1600. An honest, democratic event just ended in Colombia; an process that began at 0800 to elect the president of the Republic in runoff elections, to choose between Andres Pastrana and Ernesto Samper Pizano. The voting process just ended and the vote counting starts now. The Caracol network will now begin an information marathon to report figures from all cities and regions to allow you to make your own additions and learn in a matter of minutes who is the new president of the Republic. The authorities reported absolute normalcy. Here are the first results from Colferias fair grounds:

[Reporter] We have the results from table No. 434. Seven votes were cast; two blank, three for Andres Pastrana, and two for Ernesto Samper.

[Announcer] That was the result from the table at Colferias, table 434. Two blank votes, three for Pastrana, two for Samper. Caracol is reporting first. It is now 1601. Bring out your paper and pencil to keep your own tally. The government banned us from reporting totals, but you who know how to add can do so.

Turnout Highest in History

PA2006042394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Jun 94

[From the "TV Today" Newscast]

[Text] The abstention rate dropped by 55 percent and voter turnout increased by more than 1 million compared to the first round of elections on 29 May.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Abstention was defeated very early in Santa Fe de Bogota, especially at the largest polling station, Corferias [exhibition center], where thousands of people lined up at the 226 voting tables there. A high percentage of young people decided to break their silence and vote in this round. However, many voters were turned away because they were not registered on the electoral lists. The voting took place in an atmosphere of relative normalcy without the presence of entertainers [animadores]—as was permitted in the elections four years ago—in keeping with the new electoral laws banning partying.

In the presence of authorities, electoral information tables were set up outside Corferias with propaganda of the Liberal candidate, while the public force closely watched the voting inside the Santa Fe de Bogota exhibition center.

There were no incidents, and the abstention that marked the 29 May elections suffered a relative defeat today. [end recording]

Preliminary Runoff Election Results

PA2006032994

[Editorial report] Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 0303 GMT on 20 June reports that the National Civil Registry has issued the following results for the runoff election:

Candidate	Affiliation	Votes	Percent
Ernesto Samper Pizano	Liberal Party	3,679,632	50.37
Andres Pastrana Arango	Conservative Party	3,553,146	48.64
Blank votes	(not given)		
Null Votes	(not given)		
Total Number of Votes Counted:	7,352,846		
Percentage of Votes Counted:	98.03		

Liberal Party's Samper Claims Victory

PA2006040394 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0235 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Speech by Ernesto Samper Pizano, presidential candidate of Colombia's Liberal Party, from the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada Convention Center in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] Mr. Humberto de la Calle Lombana, the vice president of Colombia. [cheers]. Dear friends: We have won. [cheers] This victory does not belong to Ernesto Samper; this victory belongs to all of you. [cheers] For the first time, after having adopted a new Constitution, we held an electoral process in accordance with the rules established by the National Constituent Assembly to modernize and cleanse the nation's politics and its administration.

One thing in particular pleases me, and I would like to spotlight it here, before all these foreign reporters. Colombians have also defeated abstention today. [cheers] We have shown the world Colombia has a great, modern, and open democracy, under which there is full assurance that all expressions of our pluralist society can compete.

All of Colombia's friends know that our country does fulfill its international commitments and will continue to do so and that they will find in Colombia an eager ally to fight for Latin American and Caribbean integration, for international cooperation, for the peaceful resolution of all conflicts, and that we will combat drug trafficking and ensure that international law prevails.

I am reaching the Colombian Presidency following a long career that began many years ago and that has had many stages. In all of them, in all of them there has been an invariable guideline. I have been and I will always be a tireless worker, and I believe there is no effort that can be spared when it comes to helping the people. I have always acted, and I will always act inspired by my great love for Colombia and by the conviction that our country must be immense so it can house all Colombians and their kids. [cheers]

I am now thinking about Luis Carlos Galan and many other murdered people. His death was the biggest tragedy Colombians experienced, but it would have been even worse if that sacrifice were in vain. The ideals of Galan in favor of an honest exercise of politics and government will be the objectives for which my administration will work every day, every hour, and every minute. [cheers]

I also salute President Gaviria. His vision and courage gave Colombia a great push in favor of the country's modernization, which we are going to continue. His government proved we were not anchored in the past. My campaign programs to create jobs and elect a government that can work in favor of the people are no longer the proposals of a candidate; they are the plans of a president who will fulfill them with everyone's support.

I am very grateful to all Colombians for the support they gave me today. I am especially grateful to my party, the Liberal Party [cheers] and the members of the Alliance for Colombia. I am grateful to those who voted for me. I also send my fraternal greetings to those who voted for Andres Pastrana. I invite them to work to make our dreams become a reality, our dreams of peace, social justice, and progress. We are now facing an open window, a window of opportunities, a window of which we are going to take advantage with everyone's support and for everyone's benefit.

Dr. Andres Pastrana should be praised for making a great effort to conduct a different campaign. I found a persistent competitor in him. I also extend to him my friendly hand and congratulate him for conducting an innovative campaign. I want to thank many people for their support and their contribution in this victory. I want to emphasize the support of Jaquin, my wife. [cheers] She experienced the intensity of this long campaign. As anyone else, she always worked with enthusiasm, which was needed during times of fatigue, and she exhibited an optimism that never lagged when times were difficult. As anyone else, she always had a smile. [cheers]

I want to thank my mother, Jaquin, Andres, Miguel, and Felipe; they were decisive factors during this stage. They are also going to be the most important individuals of my life.

I want to thank my collaborators and my running mate, Humberto de la Calle. He is an exemplary Colombian. I also want to thank Rosalba. Our work was worthwhile so that we could come out ahead, not only because we won an election, but because we have given Colombians a road full of hope. Our duty is to think about the future generations. Our mission is to work for the future. We are going to work without respite for the needy of Colombia. We received a social mandate from the Colombian countryside today. I want to speak with sincerity to Colombians. I am anxious to start working for Colombia as early as tomorrow.

I am counting on your support, your work, and even your sacrifice, when necessary, to make our dream come true. Everyone's commitment and participation are the greatest strength our democracy has as well as our country's secret weapon and the shortest way to prosperity.

My dear friends, let us work to take advantage of the opportunities and face the challenges that await us during the next four years. We will face them without hatred or fear and with the responsibility the majority of our fellow Colombians have given us. I call on all citizens of goodwill, who are the majority, to join us in this time of change we are now beginning. I hereby declare myself free of all bitterness or animosity. [cheers]

No Colombian will be subject to discrimination during my administration due to his or her political party, beliefs, or racial origin. I invite all of those who mistakenly chose the road of armed conflict to reconsider and lay down their weapons. Let me say there is still space for peace. To my adversaries I say: I guarantee you a part, if you so wish, in the process of social transformation we will set in motion. I call on all of you to join in this new period of work. The time for Colombia's great social leap has come. [cheers]

Remarks on Immediate Plans

PA2006053094 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0255 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Interview with Ernesto Samper, presidential candidate of Colombia's Liberal Party, by unidentified reporter and Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi from the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada Convention Center in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Greetings from Caracol Network and congratulations for your victory today.

[Samper] Thank you. I am very pleased with this victory and for the opportunity to offer to Colombians, as I said today, a government of cohesion and social commitment.

[Reporter] You said there were similarities with Andres Pastrana's campaign concerning peace, social justice, and progress. Does that mean you could call some of Pastrana's followers to work with you in those three fields?

[Samper] I believe all Colombians coincide in those fields. All possibilities of cooperation are welcome as long as we can agree.

[Reporter] I know you asked me to be brief, but Dario Arizmendi wants to greet you from our studios.

[Arizmendi] Congratulations, and greetings to Ernesto Samper Pizano; we sincerely say this, because we know how he carried out his campaign, the difficulties he had to overcome. We wish him success, because his success will also be Colombia's.

[Samper] Thank you, Dario, for your message. I also reiterate my gratitude to Caracol and other networks for the wide coverage they gave my campaign. That was the best contribution they could give to democracy.

[Arizmendi] Thank you, President-elect Ernesto Samper Pizano. This was the president-elect's first interview in Colombia.

[Reporter] I would like to ask the president-elect when he plans to accompany the soccer team representing Colombia at the World Cup to the United States.

[Samper] We will see. I will begin the transition process tomorrow, and I hope to have the opportunity this same week. I tried to call Maturana and El Pibe today to dedicate to them this victory, which somewhat compensates the setback we had last night. I want to tell them I hope this victory will encourage them, so that on 22 June they can give all Colombians the good news on the World Cup.

[Arizmendi] Will you be there on 22 or 26 June?

[Samper] I do not have travel plans yet. I believe I may decide tomorrow.

[Arizmendi] When will you announce your cabinet, on 7 August or before?

[Samper] We will see. For now, I will sit down to prepare a transition plan to guarantee continuity. I already had the opportunity to talk with President Gaviria twice this afternoon. I hope we can meet again this week to continue working in that direction.

[Arizmendi] Did you talk with Andres Pastrana by telephone?

[Samper] No. I have not had the opportunity to greet him.

[Arizmendi] Did you hear his speech conceding defeat and recognizing your victory?

[Samper] Yes, Dario, I did hear it.

[Arizmendi] What are your comments about Pastrana's speech?

[Samper] I believe Pastrana has created a very important political opening, because 3.5 million votes are a very interesting figure that reflects the support he received. I am sure he will use that opening to benefit the activities he proposed during his campaign; to that effect, he can also count on my support.

[Arizmendi] What does that support mean? A representation in your cabinet, if he agrees, as you mentioned in your speech?

[Samper] Yes. The decision on cooperation will depend on the position Pastrana adopts.

[Arizmendi] Pastrana said he also offered his cooperation to Colombia, in other words, to your government and that he recognized your victory. Will you then directly invite Pastrana's friends and representatives?

[Samper] We will sit down and decide this later on. Right now we are celebrating our victory, but tomorrow we will begin our political contacts.

[Arizmendi] What was your most difficult moment today? Were you confident of your victory, or did you have any doubts?

[Samper] I remained calm at all times. I learned this week I had good opportunities to win, something that did, in fact, occur.

[Arizmendi] Did you learn about the results of the exit poll conducted by the Caracol Network and the National Consultative Center?

[Samper] Yes I did, and I understand the figures are very similar to the ones released by the National Registrar.

[Arizmendi] What will be the first thing the president-elect will do tomorrow after this historic night?

[Samper] I will sit down to talk with my working teams tomorrow. I have some commitments with the international media. I will give them as many interviews as possible, because I believe we must take advantage of this opportunity to let others know more about our country and the plans of the next government.

[Arizmendi] To whom do you dedicate your victory?

[Samper] To Colombian democracy and all Colombians, for whom I have struggled all my life.

[Arizmendi] You won by a wide margin in Santa Fe de Bogota and practically in all the departments along the Atlantic Coast. Will they benefit the most from your victory?

[Samper] No. I am not going to discriminate. I will govern for all regions and for all Colombians.

Gaviria Congratulates Samper

PA2006040894 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0248 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Speech by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria at the Narino Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] Colombians: Today we experienced one of the most important moments in the history of our nation when we chose the person who will rule the country until August 1998. We did this with an unprecedented democratic spirit and with a turnout that far exceeded that recorded during the first round on 29 May. Voter turnout surpassed 7.3 million; that is, we registered the highest turnout in the country's history.

As president of the Republic, I am moved by the fact that we fulfilled our democratic duty peacefully, and I therefore want to congratulate each and every one of the millions of Colombians who voted today to work toward a better future for this country that we love so much.

First I want to congratulate the victor, who by the Colombians' decision will be president of the Republic on 7 August. I want to congratulate and express my admiration for Ernesto Samper Pizano and Jaquin [Samper's wife] and to voice my most ardent and sincere wishes that his government will be successful in the search for peace, well-being, and social justice for Colombians.

As a partner in the Liberal struggles for many years and as an important member of this administration, Ernesto Samper was a victim of the blind violence that has brought so much suffering to this nation. Nevertheless, his experience strengthened his determination, and he will dedicate the second chance life granted him to advancing his ideals for a better country; a tolerant, pluralist country that respects human rights. He will create new jobs. I know these things will happen because he undoubtedly has all the qualities needed to achieve these goals.

Humberto de la Calle will be a loyal partner at the vice presidency, and from there he will always contribute his intelligence, good judgment, and valuable experiences to strengthening our democracy.

I also want to congratulate Andres Pastrana Arango. I owe him my thanks for his generous support for my government in difficult times. The campaign he has conducted and his human and professional capabilities have won him immense support from the citizens. Both he and his running mate, former Labor Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez, were worthy candidates for this electoral debate. I applaud the patriotic gesture by Andres Pastrana a few moments ago when he recognized the results of this election.

The National Civil Registry has once again earned the applause of all Colombians. As president of the Republic, I wish to congratulate the registrar and each official of that institution.

The high turnout in today's elections shows the democratic maturity of the Colombian people. There is no doubt that we have restored our faith in our potential, in our ability to face adversity, and in the fine qualities of our people. It is also a demonstration of the benefits of the ballot, of the second round as established by the Constitution, and of the spirit of democratic participation as established by the 1991 Constitution. It is a demonstration of the desire for peace of a vast majority of the Colombian people. Without a doubt, we have made progress in the construction of a better future for our children and for new generations of Colombians.

Colombians; there are times in a nation's life when the courage of its people is tested. Today we have shown once again that nothing can stop this country on its road to a better future. Nothing in the world is capable of stopping the firm convictions of a united people who have confidence in their ability to take the reins of their future in their own hands.

Thank you very much and good night.

Pastrana Concedes Defeat

PA2006030694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0152 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Speech by Andres Pastrana, presidential candidate of Colombia's Conservative Party, from the Red Room of the Tequendama Hotel in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] Before anything else, I want to say thank you, Colombia. Before anything else, I want to congratulate

Ernesto Samper Pizano. [cheers] Before anything else, I want to congratulate Ernesto Samper for his election as president of the Republic. [cheers] We bid him the best of luck; we bid him the best of luck because we want the best of luck for Colombia.

We were contenders in this campaign, but the campaign ended. We are no longer divided between Samperists and Andreists today. We are all Colombians, [cheers] and nothing is more important than fighting for the future of our fatherland and liberating it from the politics and poverty of the past. We thank the 3.5 million Colombians who supported us, those who shared our hopes, and those who demonstrated they want the change we proposed. I truly tell them this is not Andres' time, but we are going to do everything within our reach so that this can be Colombia's time. [cheers]

I did this campaign independent of the economic groups. I did this campaign against the political machineries, against corruption, and against the drug traffickers.

That is why [crowd shouts: "No"] that is why [repeats himself] I assured the country a president who has received money from drug trafficking has no moral right to lead Colombia. We recovered our campaign's moral tone and the sense of decency in politics, and that is what the Colombian people voted for today. That was the motivation behind the struggle of this campaign, and it is the foundation of the new political phase that I am inviting you to initiate with us as of today. [applause, cheers] The people's vote is the strongest of voices in a free society.

We have heard that voice today, and we will obey it. We will continue to strive for educational reform so that we can prepare our people for the work that lies ahead in the 21st century. We will continue to support training and programs of improvement for our workers and work-oriented educational plans so as to make new opportunities for the young people who cannot go to a university. We will continue to defend drinking water as a basic right and not a privilege.

We hope and expect the 660,000 housing units will become a reality for our fellow Colombians who have no home. We will be determined in our search for peace and security for all our fellow Colombians, particularly the weakest. We will continue to oppose with all our strength the legalization of drugs. [cheers] All of these things were by no means mere presidential campaign promises; they were and remain commitments we hold deep in our minds and in the bottom of our heart.

Allow me to tell the 3.5 million Colombians—the 3.5 million of you who supported us—and all Colombians alike that as of right now we begin fighting for these commitments and more. [cheers] We have begun to fight for these and other commitments to make Colombia the country of our dreams.

In conclusion, I want to thank you. [cheers, chants] I finally want to thank all of those who worked hard with us in this campaign. I want to thank all of those who supported us in this voyage for change without giving up the faith in their hearts. We want to thank the women, the workers, the peasants, the young people, and all those who campaigned along with their parents as they never did before. I also want to thank the children who campaigned along with their parents as we had never seen before.

Allow me to express my deep feelings of gratitude to Luis Fernando Ramirez. [cheers] He is going to be a powerful force in Colombia's future. We have already seen his capabilities and work in the social security reforms. They will reach each and every Colombian thanks to him .

I especially want to thank the companion of my life, the mother of my children, [cheers, chants] my friend, and my trustworthy partner. She was with me all the way, touring the country inch by inch. Thank you.

I also want to thank my parents and my brothers for their support and confidence. [cheers] They are the source of my inspiration. I also want to thank all the individuals whom I discovered throughout this marvelous country.

I want to thank those people who are willing to give everything they can to carry out the hard work we all want in order to make changes.

I will never forget the hands I shook during each one of my tours. I will never forget the places we visited nor each one of the conversations I had with you, face to face; with you, the Colombian people; [shouts] with you, the people of Colombia and each and every one of you who welcomed us, who welcomed Nora, Luis Hernando, and Emilia; all of us, in each one of your cities, of your neighborhoods, plazas, blocks, and streets; and above all, those who received us in your hearts. I thank you all.

This has been a campaign of the people. It was among you that I found the strength and the reason to run for president [applause], and it is from you that I will keep finding the strength to continue seeking the well-being of all Colombians. Your needs, your hopes are my reasons.

I did not seek the Colombian Presidency for its importance or to simply obtain a title. I did it because I believe it is the president's duty to struggle for the people's work. The president has the opportunity to make Colombia a country of opportunities. [shouts] That challenge goes beyond any time or any campaign. A new generation of leaders makes us keep on moving ahead.

Therefore, I ask you tonight to keep loving our country, to keep helping our country advance, and together with each one of our actions, let us continue to serve the people and not the powerful. [shouts] That has been and will remain our objective. That was and remains our vision. Not today, but some day not too far away, we will have the opportunity to make it a reality. Thank you. [applause]

'Terrorists' Detonate 3 Bombs, Damage Banks

PA1806205294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] A new wave of terror has been unleashed by terrorists who detonated three powerful bombs damaging three banks along the border. [not further specified]

The shock wave caused damage estimated at more than 100 million pesos. The automatic tellers were destroyed, and a customer, who was seriously injured by the explosion, fights for his life.

No specific subversive group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Several Bombs Detonate in Medellin

PA1706192394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Medellin has suffered several bomb attacks in the past few hours. According to authorities, the bombs were of medium power.

Eleven 7-kg bombs were detonated against banking and financial institutions, while two others were defused by the police. The attacks started at 2300 local and the explosions occurred simultaneously in central Medellin and the northeastern, northwestern, and southern areas of the city.

[Begin recording] [General Luis Ernesto Gilibert, head of the Metropolitan Police] Since last night, we have been preparing for new terrorist attacks.

[Reporter] Who are the perpetrators of these attacks?

[Gen Gilibert] Subversives, who attempt to hamper the electoral process. [end recording]

The explosions, which caused damage amounting to more than 100 million pesos, injured a young girl. Police have posted a reward of 10 million pesos for information on the identities of those responsible for the terrorist actions. The police believe members of an ELN [National Liberation Army] city cell are responsible for these incidents. The ELN is also blamed for an attack on a police patrol on Tuesday. Personnel of security agencies are on a first- level alert to guarantee public order in the Antioquia Department capital city.

[Paris AFP at 1447 GMT on 17 June transmits a 229-word report stating that 17 bombs were set off Thursday night in Medellin, each with an estimated 5-kg weight]

No Casualties Reported

PA1706133594 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0440 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Jairo Calle and unidentified announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] We have a last minute report from Medellin. Here is Jairo Calle:

[Calle] Yes, good evening. Unfortunately, there has been an escalation of terrorism in the city. Approximately eight bombs have been detonated in different areas of the city. So far, there is no report from the authorities about the situation. The only thing we know is that there have been detonations in the city's east side and the nearby Bello Municipality. There have also been explosions near the Caracol facilities in Los Laureles and in the area of 80th Boulevard in western Medellin. So far there are no reports on whether the detonations, which have alarmed citizens, have caused casualties or damage. This is our report from Medellin. We understand that many of these terrorist actions were directed at banks. The authorities have begun to report that some CONAVI's [National Savings and Housing Corporation], such as the one located in Manrique in the city's east side, have been the target of these explosions. The Suramericana Bank branch in Los Laureles, near Caracol, was also affected by one of the explosions.

[Announcer] Jairo, might this be an escalation of acts of terrorism like the ones the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board frequently undertakes in various parts of the country? You say that eight bombs have exploded so far?

[Calle] Yes, this is an escalation that had been foreseen. The authorities had intensified the so-called Democracy Plan this evening because there was intelligence information about these terrorist attacks and sabotage of the city's urban bus service, as occurred before the previous elections, when 16 vehicles were set on fire.

[Announcer] Well, eight bombs have exploded in the past few minutes in Medellin. Authorities indicate that it seems this is an escalation of terrorism against banking institutions. So far, no casualties are reported, although there are damages.

Guerrillas Intimidate Bolivar Voters

PA1906030894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 18 Jun (AFP)—It was officially reported here today that guerrilla threats could keep about 12,000 citizens of Bolivar Department in northern Colombia from voting in the 19 June presidential runoff elections.

Department Registrar Maria Rocio Cortes told the media that "we still do not know how we are going to solve the problem" created by the resignation of electoral

delegates and voting officers in 20 corregimientos of Simiti and Santa Rosa Municipalities. She admitted that, despite the fact that units from two Army brigades are in control of the area, the people are just as afraid as they were during the 29 May elections, when the abstention rate in the area reached 85 percent.

It has just been learned that with the support of regular troops, efforts are being made to transport civil registry personnel from other communities by helicopter so the elections can be held.

In Medellin, the country's second largest city in the northwest, a drop in the number of buses providing service was noticed today due to threats by the People's Militias, which yesterday burned a bus in an effort to hinder the elections.

Guerrillas Kidnap Electoral Officials

PA1906180894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1625 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 19 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Within the framework of the presidential elections, Colombian guerrillas have kidnapped 10 persons, including electoral delegates and voting officers, in northeastern part of the country, authorities reported today. Alvaro Dagon, government secretary in the Santander Department, disclosed that the officials were kidnapped by rebel units when they were getting ready to set up the voting table in the Garcia Rovira Province.

Colombians today will elect President Cesar Gaviria's successor, either Ernesto Samper of the Liberal Party or Andres Pastrana of the New Democratic Force. Samper and Pastrana were the candidates who obtained the highest number of votes in the 29 May elections; however, neither obtained the 50 percent of the vote required for victory in the first round.

The source reported that among those kidnapped is the police inspector of "El Cerrito" Municipality, which is near the site of the kidnapping, approximately 460 km from Santa Fe de Bogota. Despite the kidnappings, the local authorities guaranteed that the elections will take place in a normal fashion, saying that the officials had been replaced this morning.

In addition, 15 other electoral delegates resigned from their posts at "Santa Rosa de Simiti" Municipality in the northern part of the country in light of the death threats received from the Simon Bolivar guerrilla group, the report stated.

Meanwhile, at "Legrija" Municipality in the northern Santander Department the rebels engaged in a confrontation with government troops. One guerrilla died, the source reported.

Another adverse action was registered in Medellin, the second most important city in the nation, where rebel units set off several home-made bombs causing no victims, although considerable damage was reported.

Defense Minister Pardo on Security for Elections

PA1906165194 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1312 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda in Santa Fe de Bogota by station director Dario Arizmendi and unidentified station announcer in Emisoras Caracol's Santa Fe de Bogota studios; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Good morning, Mr. Minister. Our respects from Caracol. We would like you to speak with our director, Dario Arizmendi, who is in the station's master control room, regarding the status of public order in the country today, as Colombia is electing a new president.

[Pardo] The reports on the public security situation that are available to us thus far do not reveal any incidents that could delay the elections. The Defense Ministry is going to provide related information and official public order reports on a regular basis. However, at this time, we do not have any reports from any place saying that, because of public order problems, elections will be delayed.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, our respects from Caracol's central master control room. Do you believe soldiers should be able to vote in the elections? In Colombia, legal regulations and the Constitution stipulate that soldiers cannot vote.

[Pardo] No, I do not believe soldiers should vote. I believe that, in light of the current situation Colombia faces, the circumstances, and the role played by the military forces in Colombia, it is not appropriate for soldiers to vote. I believe so because the Colombian Armed Forces play the fundamental role of guaranteeing the elections. For instance, the public forces are guarding over 90 percent of the 47,000 voting tables. The parties themselves have asked for the public forces to be present at the voting tables and sites, lending their support for the electoral organization. This entails an absolute and total neutrality and a lack of party allegiance on the part of public forces members. This is why I deem it appropriate to maintain this legal prohibition that dates back to 1930 and has been part of Colombian traditions.

[Arizmendi] Judging from your experience, do you believe our next president, whom we will be electing today, should appoint a civilian to the Defense Ministry?

[Pardo] This is normal in a democracy. I believe that all Colombians must begin to get used to this situation and that it should be usual within the Defense Ministry.

[Arizmendi] At this juncture, do you believe all generals nationwide are happy and satisfied and consider having a civilian as defense minister a pleasant experience?

[Pardo] As for myself, the task I have fulfilled has been, rather than pleasant, very constructive and significant. On behalf of democracy, it is crucial that the defense

minister have the capacity to answer politically and assume political responsibilities. I deem this appropriate for any democracy, and for the Colombian democracy, in particular, I believe it should be the rule in the future.

[Arizmendi] Would you like to remain in your post as defense minister if you are confirmed by the president-elect?

[Pardo] I have a term, which will end on 7 August.

[Arizmendi] Are you planning to go overseas or stay in Colombia?

[Pardo] I am trying to get a scholarship to study abroad.

[Arizmendi] Where would you like to study?

[Pardo] I do not know yet, any place abroad. I have a few possibilities in mind, have sent several applications, and hope something will come through.

[Arizmendi] What would you like to study?

[Pardo] Basically, I am interested in reflecting on all I have done in the public arena all these years. I would like to further my knowledge regarding that area. There are many new trends, international situations, and I have great interest in learning more about issues of this sort.

[Arizmendi] In order to participate actively in Colombian politics later on?

[Pardo] [Words indistinct] to study.

[Arizmendi] It is time to make assessments. [Words indistinct] What is your assessment on the war against the guerrillas?

[Pardo] I believe there is a basic factor in this situation. Three or four years ago, the guerrillas constituted a necessary player [referencia obligatoria] in Colombian politics. Any issue being debated required to some extent—in order to be thoroughly examined—the opinion of the guerrillas. The guerrillas gave their views and issued communiques on every subject. They constituted a permanent player in the entire political process and the national situation. This situation has changed dramatically. Today's guerrillas might continue causing harm and might be able to perpetrate crimes, but they do not constitute a key player in Colombian politics anymore. Today's guerrillas are a criminal element that remains on the sidelines. We are all concerned about the guerrillas and would like to see the problem resolved promptly, preferably in a negotiated manner, but the truth is that they do not constitute a leading player in Colombian politics anymore.

[Arizmendi] However, how many soldiers have been deployed nationwide today to guarantee peace and keep the order?

[Pardo] There are between 130,000 and 140,000 soldiers directly involved in the electoral process.

Views Security Incidents

PA1906185294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Interview with Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota on 19 June; from the "NTC News" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] There is relative normality on this election day. What is the final report you have?

[Pardo] There have been some problems with regard to the destruction of voting material in District 1 in Cauca and another in northern Santander. There have been problems in approximately six to seven districts upon the arrival of Civil Registry delegates or those from the electoral organization. In the Sucre municipality, Sucre Department, a confrontation also took place between a group of rebels and electoral officials. All these sites are preparing to replace the material, while delegates have been appointed by the electoral organization to replace those who did not show up.

Government Minister on 'Terrorist' Acts

PA1906172394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Government Minister Fabio Villegas by reporter Carlos Ruiz and an unidentified reporter at Plaza Bolivar in Santa Fe de Bogota and by station director Dario Arizmendi in Emisoras Caracol's Santa Fe de Bogota studios; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Excerpts] [Ruiz] Mr. Minister: What is your message to the nation, through the Caracol network, with regard to today's election?

[Villegas] I invite all Colombians to vote today, we should go early to the voting tables to vote and elect en mass our future president. In our opinion, whoever occupies the Presidency can do so in a much more legitimate manner, with greater authority, depending on the extent to which a greater number of Colombians vote. The goal is to strengthen democracy, strengthen peace, and strengthen all the values and hopes of the Colombians. The goal is to defeat violence and those who still attempt, through terrorism, to impose their political will on this country.

[Reporter] What report do you have on the situation in the nation at the opening of the voting tables?

[Villegas] We understand that everything is perfectly normal. Nevertheless, yesterday there were some difficulties in southern Bolivar Department, in the province of [name indistinct] in the Santander Department. These were taken care of by the public forces, the electoral organization, and the local authorities. Early this morning, there were some terrorist actions in Medellin; however, we hope these will not hamper the normal

development of the elections. The idea is for Medellin to reaffirm its desire to be a calm capital, as it deserves. One of the ways to do this is to participate in the elections.

[Ruiz] Have the two delegates of the contending parties been sent to all the nation's municipalities as they requested?

[Villegas] Presidential delegates were sent to each and every department in compliance with one of the mechanisms to give guarantees to the parties that are participating in these elections. Currently these delegates should be in the departments. We expect them to act as overseers of the electoral process and of the performance by the electoral officials, the electoral organization, and the public forces. They are to report to the appropriate authorities all their observations, all the irregularities that they possibly may observe in order to correct them.

[Ruiz] Mr. Minister, Dario Arizmendi and our colleagues at Caracol station will now greet you. [passage omitted]

[Arizmendi] A few moments ago we talked with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo. He told us that he wanted to study abroad, had sent applications to some universities, and wants to further study contemporary issues. He is most certainly thinking about his future. What will you do after 7 August?

[Villegas] That is the big question. I still do not have an answer.

[Arizmendi] Would you like a diplomatic post?

[Villegas] There is nothing planned yet. We want to conclude a series of actions we have pending at the Government Ministry. One of these is precisely these elections. After that, we will have the time to think over what is more appropriate. [passage omitted]

Police Head on Voting Incidents

PA2006044394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Jun 94

[From the "TV Today" newscast; speakers identified by caption]

[Text] Except for a few isolated incidents, calmness reigned throughout the country on 19 June, according to authorities.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Rafael Pardo] Out of the more than 47,200 voting tables, 160 experienced problems, in one way or another, related to public order or difficult or obstructed voting, and of this amount, electoral organization delegates failed to show up on time at approximately 100 tables due to transportation problems and intimidation. Electoral material was destroyed or stolen at 60 tables. Electoral organization officials were able to overcome most of these problems throughout the day.

[General Octavio Vargas, police director] The outcome is very satisfactory. There were a few incidents, such as in the Departments of Sucre, Arauca, and Santander, but the public force took care of them. [end recording]

Pastrana, Samper Make Campaign Statements 17 Jun

PA1806035694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Midday Television Newscast"]

[Text] Barely 43 hours before the election that will decide who will be the new president of Colombia, voter preference is more divided now than in previous elections. Recent polls indicate a virtual tie between the two candidates. The election results on 19 June will surely be a photo finish. This is why Ernesto Samper Pizano and Andres Pastrana Arango will begin a bona fide Colombian tour in order to secure the votes that will take them into Narino Presidential Palace.

Andres Pastrana will visit Armenia, Pereira, Medellin, Moteria, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Valledupar, Cucuta, and Bucaramanga this weekend. Meanwhile, Ernesto Samper Pizano will visit Popayan, Pasto, Neiva, and a half dozen other cities in the southwest. The two candidates are asking Colombians to defeat abstention on 19 June. Before beginning their tours, the two candidates expressed their confidence in winning:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Why should Colombians vote for you?

[Pastrana] For change. The country realized on 29 May the country can change. People saw change was, in fact, possible; that is why we are telling the people that if one extra person votes for Andres along with the 2.5 million Colombians who did the last time, we will have consolidated change in Colombia.

[Reporter] Why should Colombians vote for you?

[Samper] Because I believe I have the necessary experience and knowledge to administrate the country. I have an excellent running mate, Humberto de la Calle. We represent the new Colombia. We represent those who do not want to be discriminated against and want better living conditions. I am ready to make the social turn Colombia needs. [end recording]

Official Results of 13 Mar, 19 May Elections Issued

PA1906044094 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p 9a

[Text] Liberal candidate Ernesto Samper Pizano has been proclaimed the official winner of the first round of the 29 May presidential elections.

Samper defeated Andres Pastrana by 18,439 votes. The two will face each other again next Sunday to determine the final winner.

Samper obtained 45.3 percent of the votes to Pastrana's 44.98 percent. Antonio Navarro placed third with 3.79 percent of the vote.

The difference between Samper and Pastrana dropped by only 3,000 votes in comparison to the figure cited in the last bulletin issued by the National Civil Registry on election day.

The official data is contained in the final report that the National Electoral Council presented publicly on 15 June.

This organization also presented the final documents of the 13 March legislative elections.

According to the official results, Liberalism reaffirmed its majority in the legislative branch by winning 56 percent of the seats.

Conservatism, which was represented by various groups, obtained 25 percent of the seats.

In the Senate, Fuad Char received the largest number of votes with 84,322. The last to "qualify" for a seat was Hector Heli Rojas with 21,861 votes.

Voter turnout was higher in the first round of the presidential elections than in the legislative elections.

A total of 5,170,316 citizens voted on 13 March, and 5,821,331 voted on 29 May.

The special Indian district elected Lorenzo Muelas of the Indian Authorities of Colombia Movement [Movimiento Autoridades Indigenas de Colombia] and Gabriel Muyuy Jacanamejoy of the Indian Communities [Comunidades Indigenas] as their representatives in the Senate.

M-19 Leaders Urge Followers Not To Vote for Samper

PA1806024094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Presidential candidates Samper and Pastrana are touring Colombia hours before the election. M-19 [19 April Movement] leaders Otti Patino, Gloria Quinceno, Eduardo Chavez, and German Rojas have told their followers they should not vote for Ernesto Samper, because what the country wants is a government of unity, not a party government.

[Begin Pastrana recording] I condemn any attempt to buy votes, no matter what. We want an open and clean election, and that is exactly for what we are going to fight. We are going to work to defeat the old policy, those who believe that by buying consciences and votes they can reach power. [end recording]

Regarding the Liberal Party, Juan Diego Jaramillo expressed his support today for presidential candidate Ernesto Samper. Meanwhile, Samper said he is not worried about the tie the recent polls are indicating.

[Begin Samper recording] Polls do not worry me. They indicate a tie, but if you compare these polls with other polls you will see there is an upward trend, and I believe that trend will benefit me during the 19 June election. [end recording]

Ecuador

Indians Protest Agrarian Reform Bill Amendment

PA1706204294 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jun 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] Quito—President Sixto Duran-Ballen has signed into law a controversial amendment to the Agricultural Reform Law, despite the Indian communities' threats to demonstrate until the amendment is repealed. The bill proposed is meant to modify agrarian reform to increase the country's agricultural production. The Indian and peasant communities, however, think the new measure is harmful because it offsets the agrarian reform's increased benefits and empowers the government to confiscate land presently owned by Indians and hand it over to wealthy landlords.

Before the bill was approved, Indian organizations closed roads and organized marches to the Congress. Now that the bill has been signed into law, the Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador [CONAIE] threatens to intensify the protests until the law is repealed. Traditionally, the Indians' protests have been marked by the closure of highways and confrontations with the police but without excessive violence.

Occupy Cajamarca-Guamote Highway

PA1906001694 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast]

[Text] A total of 13,000 Indians, members of the Evangelical Indian Association of Chimborazo, an affiliate of the Ecuadoran Federation of Evangelical Indians, Feine, peacefully occupied the Cajamarca-Guamote Highway to reject the religious education and agrarian development bills.

Francisco Waspa, president of the Association, said the action is intended to express the Indians' rejection of the

aforementioned bills. We want to remind the government that a peaceful people exists and will continue to exist in Ecuador, but we are entitled to having our fair aspirations considered.

Francisco Waspa said the association comprises 500 communities. He added that in the framework of respect for authorities and for public and private property, his associate will ask the government and the National Congress to comply with the following points:

1. The National Government must comply with the Commitment Letter [Carta de Compromiso] signed on 11 October 1992, which contains a list of 23 demands regarding nutrition, health, education, and strengthening of popular organizations.

2. We reject the mobilization of the public force as a measure of avoiding possible bloodshed because the Evangelical Indian peoples condemn violence and vandalism in principle.

3. The National Congress must suspend the religious education bill.

The president of the Association of Evangelical Indians of Chimborazo says his organization is willing to suspend its action as soon as the government guarantees that its demands will be met.

Negotiations Announced

PA1906001794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2142 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Quito, 18 Jun (DPA)—While cities in eight Ecuadoran provinces remained under seige by Indian groups today, albeit with less violence than in previous days, the government announced that on Monday there will be "high-level negotiations with an open agenda."

The barricades erected on Monday by demonstrators linked to the powerful Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie) continue to paralyze central Ecuador, blocking all roads and highways and causing an increasing shortage of food and fuel.

Prices have skyrocketed in practically all Ecuadoran cities over the last 48 hours following a government announcement that it would not open the roads by force.

Monday's negotiation will reportedly be headed by the Ecuadoran president himself, liberal politician Sixto Duran-Ballen, in accordance with demands made by the Conaie leadership, which said the strike will not be lifted until the agrarian law, in effect since 13 June, is repealed.

The law was approved 10 days earlier by the opposition-controlled Ecuadoran Congress.

Conaie opposes the law because it guarantees ownership of land that is "fulfilling a social mission," thereby limiting the agrarian reform process that has been applied for the past three decades, a period during which, according to official figures, Ecuadoran agricultural production has dropped dramatically. Other Indian organizations support the agrarian law.

The government, through Agriculture Minister Mariano Gonzalez, has already said that the "law is good and will be kept." Following the announcement of negotiations on Monday, however, the possibility of sending a reform bill to Congress has not been ruled out.

The government has instructed the Army and the police force not to reopen roads as a means of avoiding confrontations, a decision criticized by farmers and other sectors as a sign of the "lack of government authority" and as "goodwill gestures that are absolutely useless."

Conaie Spokeswoman Nina Pacari already announced that the roadblocks will not be removed until the Indians' demands are completely met, a position that will give them greater negotiating power before the government due to the increasingly difficult situation faced by the cities under siege.

Twenty Injured in Clashes

PA2006022194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0101 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Quito, 19 Jun (AFP)—Violent clashes this Sunday between Indians and merchants of the southern Ecuadoran Andean region resulted in the injury of approximately 20 people by blows, knives, and tear gas and the torching of a dozen vehicles and an Indian community house, the police have informed.

Indians who have been protesting against an agrarian development law since 13 June clashed with merchants and residents in the cities of El Tambo and Azogues, Canar Province, 270 km south of Quito, leading the Army to intervene.

Journalists from the newspaper EL MERCURIO, which is published in Cuenca, near the place where the incidents took place, told AFP the Indians had "seized" food from stores and markets in El Tambo and Azogues and then tried to boycott the weekly fair this Sunday.

The merchants and residents organized themselves and discovered that a large portion of the food seized by the Indians was stored in an Indian community house. They recovered their products and torched the house, leading the Indians to regroup and confront the merchants. As a result, a dozen people were injured, and approximately 10 vehicles were burned.

Approximately 1,200 vehicles are trapped north of Cuenca, and Army soldiers repressed Indians with tear gas in the south of Cuenca, near Santa Isabel, 350 km south of Quito. Approximately eight Indians were beaten up in the clashes.

The agrarian development law spurred the Indians to protest throughout the Andean and Amazon regions, except in the area north of Quito, where an annual festival is being prepared.

The protests consist of highway blockings to impede the shipment of food. The government has ordered the public order forces to avoid confrontations and has not ordered the reopening of the highways.

Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen will receive Indian leaders on 20 June to talk about the agrarian law. According to the Indian leaders, such laws provide benefits to business firms and landowners, whose farm products are exported to the detriment of the benefits which the peasants and small landowners used to enjoy.

Peru

Fujimori Discusses Results of Cartagena Summit

PY1706210494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1649 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Lima, 17 Jun (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today said that during the Ibero-American summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, Latin America left rhetoric behind and took concrete steps toward integration.

When speaking of the results of the summit, Fujimori said that "the most important thing is that concrete measures were adopted and this represents considerable progress toward regional integration."

"This time the rhetoric was left aside and it was obvious that each country was making an effort to form a Latin American trade bloc to counterbalance the other blocs that exist in the world," Fujimori said.

The Peruvian president said that the economic section of the final document issued in Cartagena contains several proposals "which were planned based on the experience and modernization process of the Peruvian economy."

As for the political content of the declaration of the Ibero-American chiefs of state and governments, Fujimori said that the document "insists on the need for the democratic system to work efficiently."

He also mentioned that "it has been agreed that it is necessary to combat all kinds of corruption which, just like terrorism, is one of the scourges that hinders development and the efficiency of democracy."

Fujimori expressed satisfaction over the result of his meetings in Cartagena with Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

He and Duran-Ballen discussed several plans that would integrate the two countries, such as highways and agricultural projects, while he and Sanchez de Lozada spoke about giving Bolivia an outlet to the sea through the southern Peruvian coast.

Fujimori on Arrest of 'Very Important' SL Leader

PA1806124794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Lima, 17 Jun (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori announced today the arrest of a "very important" leader of the Shining Path [SL] terrorist group, whom he identified as Moises Simon Limaco Huayuscachi. Fujimori said that Limaco Huayuscachi was coordinator of the Shining Path's Central Directorate and was regarded as "the right arm" of Oscar Alberto Ramirez Durand, alias "Feliciano," currently the top leader of the Maoist group.

The Peruvian president said that Mario Vasquez, known as "Comrade Roberto," another ranking leader of the subversive organization, was also arrested. He is the one who occupied the post of Martha Huatay, who was in charge of the SL's "People's Aid" organization.

Huatay, one of the main terrorist leaders surrounding Abimael Guzman, the group's founder, ideologue, and foremost leader, was captured shortly after Guzman, who was arrested by policemen on 12 September 1992.

Fujimori told newsmen that both terrorists were captured today in Comas district in the northern sector of Lima. He added that Limaco Huayuscachi was responsible for logistical support for "Feliciano" and said that his capture "will further weaken" the Shining Path organization, whose members have rejected the peace proposals made by Guzman to the Fujimori government and have chosen to pursue the path of violence.

SL Attacks Banks To Commemorate Prison Riots

PA1806170194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1436 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Lima, 18 Jun (EFE)—Alleged commandos of the Maoist Shining Path [SL] today attacked the Wiese Bank in Lima. It staged other attacks last night against the Banco Continental and Banco de la Nacion. The attacks caused damage, but no victims.

During the attack on the Wiese Bank the terrorists turned away retirees, who were standing in line to cash their paychecks before the bank opened. Terrorists yesterday staged an attack with explosives against the City Hall and a Mormon church run by U.S. priests in the city of Huancayo, 415 km southeast of Lima, in the central mountain range of Peru. The terrorist attack did not cause any casualties, but did cause considerable damage, according to National Police sources in Huancayo.

With its acts of violence, the Shining Path organization is today commemorating the killing of 250 Shining Path members charged with terrorism on 18 and 19 June 1986, during the administration of Alan Garcia, who remains in asylum in Colombia. The killings occurred in three prisons in Lima and the port city of Callao after

Shining Path inmates staged prison riots that were quelled. That date is recalled by the Shining Path as the "day of heroism."

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori announced yesterday that important Shining Path leaders had been arrested. Among those arrested is Moises Simon Limaco Huayascachi, alias "Ramiro," alleged number two man in the Shining Path faction headed today by Oscar Ramirez Durand, alias "Feliciano."

Also arrested were terrorists Mario Vazquez Rojas, alias "Roberto," and Walter Tupac Yupanqui Asuquilca. Vazquez Rojas led the Shining Path's "People's Aid," which plans and executes crimes and attacks by the band, after replacing Martha Huatay, who was sentenced to life in prison.

Analyst Doubts Terrorism To End by July 1995

PY1806011794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1817 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Lima, 17 Jun (EFE)—Political violence in Peru caused 39 deaths in May, which shows a slowdown. According to analyst Carlos Tapia today, however, this does mean terrorist activities will end in the short term.

The June issue of PERUPAZ carries an interview with Tapia and the latest statistics regarding violence in Peru.

According to these statistics, 413 people died in May 1992, 169 in May 1993, and 39 in May 1994. Of the 39 who died this year, 11 were civilians, six police and soldiers, and 22 terrorists and narcoterrorists.

Since May 1980, when the Shining Path [SL] started its subversive actions, through May 1994 some 27,500 to 30,000 people were killed.

Of this total, 2,459 were members of the security forces, 11,768 civilians, 12,967 terrorists, and 277 narcoterrorists.

Although, according to some commentators, terrorist activities have decreased by some 80 percent, this does not mean the SL has been dismantled although it is "seriously wounded."

PERUPAZ asserts that "'Feliciano's' determination to continue implementing the SL plan lacks any grounds and has no chance. 'Feliciano'—Oscar Ramirez Durand—has replaced leader Abimael Guzman, currently in prison, a fact that has divided the SL."

However, the publication states it is not enough for those who are under arrest to show that they are in favor of peace, such as Guzman and other leaders, it is also necessary that those "who are still up in arms to surrender, repent, and hand themselves in."

PERUPAZ explains that wiping out the current focus of violence is not enough, that "any chances, no matter how small they are, that it may resurface must be wiped out."

PERUPAZ maintains that "unhappiness, social protests, and the naive tendency to believe that violence will solve the problems of injustice affecting the country" must be eliminated to prevent violence from appearing again.

For this reason security measures have been stepped up in Lima for the eve of 18 and 19 July, when the massacre of 250 inmates charged with terrorism in three Lima prisons in 1986, when Alan Garcia was president, took place.

The Shining Path considers these dates the "day of heroism" and authorities fear new attacks.

Analyst Carlos Tapia says it is "irresponsible" to maintain, as Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori does, that terrorism will have been wiped out in Peru by the end of his term in office in July 1995.

Tapia asserted: "It is quite unlikely that the SL, which has become a phenomenon with social implications that somehow belongs to Peruvian history and has survived for the past 14 years, will disappear just because the president says so, because the social processes do not end from one day to the next."

Venezuela

Caldera Receives Portuguese Prime Minister

PA1806140894 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Jun 94 p A-2

[Report by Josefina Blanco]

[Text] A warm afternoon and a superb view of Mount Avila greeted Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva. A UH-214 Army helicopter took the Portuguese premier and his entourage from the Maiquetia Airport to the General Francisco de Miranda Air Base in La Carlota. The group included Foreign Minister Jose Durao Barroso, Commerce and Tourism Minister Fernando Faria de Oliveira, and Luis Sousa de Macedo, secretary of state for Portuguese communities.

Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera received the distinguished party with words that recalled the long and close relations between both countries and the beneficial presence of the large Portuguese community in Venezuela: "....the Portuguese presence in Venezuela has without doubt proved to be very positive," the Venezuelan president said. Both leaders met at the recent Ibero-American Summit held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, at the beginning of this week.

The Venezuelan reception committee included Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli, Tourism Minister Herman Luis Soriano, and Armed Forces Commander Otto Garcia.

Upon his arrival, Cavaco Silva, who is 54 years old, has a degree in finance, is a professor and member of the Social Democratic party (PSD), and is visiting this

country for the first time, highlighted the importance of his four-day mission in Venezuela. He comes, he said, to strengthen the existing political, cultural, economic, and business relations between both countries. The head of the Portuguese nation said he was accompanied by 50 of the most important and significant businessmen in his country.

Cavaco Silva also said that he visited the country as a member of the European Union (EU) and that the talks would thus cover the strengthening of relations between the EU and the Latin American countries, taking into account the fact that Venezuela has played an important role in furthering integration in the region.

Cavaco Silva's presence in Venezuela will seal three cooperation agreements between both countries. One is a two-way investment and protection agreement, another will cover the prevention, control, and surveillance of drug use, and the third is for technical cooperation in several fields such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and maritime transportation.

Caldera on Wave of Rumors, Economic Crisis

PA1806000994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] President Rafael Caldera has said that the most prosperous industry in Venezuela is spreading rumors. He added that this, however, is countered by reality because our democratic system is firm and stable. Caldera made this statement during a joint news conference with Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva at the Yellow House. Caldera recalled that recently rumors persistently circulated in the country about his presumed death, which had to stop when all Venezuelans confirmed that he was totally active.

[Begin Caldera recording] I am convinced that the democratic system in my country is a firm and stable reality, and will be maintained despite all the rumors unleashed by those who are interested in creating situations of violence and instability, taking advantage of the grave circumstances of an economic crisis. We are all aware of the seriousness of this crisis and we know that we must make great efforts to overcome it. [end recording]

Caldera attributed the fall of the bolivar to the wave of rumors, which in turn has increased inflation.

[Begin Caldera recording] We are fighting against inflation, but rumors are the main cause for its increase. We are facing a situation of shortages and price fluctuations in which speculators take advantage of any factor or announcement that the inflation rate is up to increase prices to unacceptable levels. We will handle this problem with courage and determination. [end recording]

President Caldera said that despite the crisis in the financial system, the fact that foreign investors are still interested in investing in our country is proof that Venezuela will be able to overcome this crisis and reactivate its economy.

Meanwhile, Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva said that his country is willing to assist Venezuela under the current circumstances and to strengthen commercial ties between both countries.

Announces Military Promotions

PA1906005494 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Jun 94 p1-14

[Report by Berenice Gomez Velasquez]

[Text] Hours before traveling to Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, President Rafael Caldera, commander in chief of the FAN [National Armed Forces], decided who will be the first division generals and vice admirals, as had been unofficially announced. The president officially informed Defense Minister Division General Rafael Angel Montero Revette to advise the promoted officers.

The president decided to promote three officers regarded as born commanders to the rank of division general, as they were described as military men who will be remembered as commanders.

Nicolas Valencia Vivas, an AMV [Military Academy of Venezuela] artillery branch graduate of the 1967 Lino de Clemente Class, is currently the chief of the Army's General Staff. He previously served as Army Intelligence director and commander of the 61st Infantry Brigade stationed in Apure State. He is a Iaeden [Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense] graduate. He also held the post of commander of the Jungle Battalion stationed in Luepa, Bolivar State, and is a lawyer.

Pedro Hernandez Guevara, an AMV artillery branch graduate of the 1965 Lino de Clemente Class, served as commander of the 52d Jungle Brigade stationed in Puerto Ayacucho; commander of the Jancito Lara Self-Propelled Group [Grupo Autopropulsado Jacinto Lara] stationed in Valencia, Carabobo State; commander of the 155mm Armored Brigade; director of the Army Higher School; commander of the Ayacucho Artillery group; deputy director of DIM [Directorate of Military Intelligence]; and is currently the Army's logistics commander.

James Patro Navas, an AMV infantry branch graduate of the 1968 Pedro Maria Freites Class, was born in San Cristobal, Tachira State. He served as commander of the 1.1 [as published] Task Forces at the service of Cufan [expansion not known]. The president appointed him commander of the Paratroopers Brigade and of 4-F [not further identified] later on. He is currently the commander of the 4th Army Infantry Division stationed in Maracay, Aragua State. The following rear admirals were

promoted to vice admiral: Jesus Briceno Garcia, current regional personnel director of the Defense Ministry, and Oscar Morales Martinez, Venezuelan Navy School director and Navy personnel commander. F-16 and Mirage pilots with well-known military records will be the new Venezuelan Air Force [FAV] division generals. Jose Agustin Borges Blasco is an outstanding and highly respected pilot. He is a jet bomber, transportation, and fighter pilot. He graduated from the AMV Aviation School in 1967 with the rank of lieutenant major of the Teofilo Zambrano Class. He was born in San Juan, Caracas, and was raised in Catia. Since his days as a cadet he distinguished himself as a test and training pilot in all the FAV weapons systems. The only aircraft he has not flown is a helicopter. He is a graduate of Washington's Inter-American Defense College. After Division General Maglio Montiel Arguello, he is the Mirage fighter pilot with the most flight time in the country. Montiel and Borges escorted the Mirage squadron upon its arrival in the country from Nellis Air Force Base in the United States after participating in the Red Flag maneuvers with F-16 airplanes.

The two pilots flew for the president during the FAV's anniversary on 9 December, a few days after the 27 November uprising, when it was reported that U.S. pilots flew those airplanes. Borges is currently commander of FAV Air Operations.

Juan Antonio Paredes Nino is one of the country's most distinguished fighter pilots. He helped pioneer the F-16 weapons system. Since his time at the Military Aviation School, he stood out as an excellent pilot. It was always said that "Paredes Nino was giving orders from school." He is the son of former Defense Minister Fernandez Paredes Bello, an FAV division general. Expectations were that at least one general of the 1968 class would rise to the rank of division general. Those expectations were based not only on merits but on knowledge about what has happened in the other branches. The president, however, dispelled those notions. It did not happen. The president did not expand the number of slots. He promoted two generals who were sure bets to the rank of division general. There was no surprise.

The promoted officers are: Julio Cesar Pena Sanchez, current FAC [Armed Forces of National Cooperation] inspector general, and Euro Luis Rincon Viloria. Rincon Viloria comes from Zulia State and graduated from the Efofac [Armed Forces of Cooperation Officers Training School] as a member of the 1967 Taguanes Battle Class. He served as deputy director of the FAC Higher School, Core [National Guard Regional Command] 5 chief of general staff, Training and Environmental and Natural Renewal Resources Protection School director, and commander of the 51st Mobile Destacafac [expansion unknown]. He served as Core 6 commander as well as commander of the Apure Garrison stationed in San Fernando. He is currently the FAC chief of General Staff.

Four Million Bolivares Approved for Depositors

PA1706175094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Asked by the Chamber of Deputies' Comptrollers Commission about financial aid, FOGADE [Fund for the Guarantee of Bank Deposits] President Norys Aguirre reported that with the payment of up to 4 million bolivares, announced by Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez, 90 percent of the depositors of the eight banks in which the government intervened will be able to get their money back. She also said that FOGADE will request the implementation, as soon as possible, of the Public Credit Law, approved by the Congress for 4.15 million bolivares and earmarked to cover the payment of up to 4 million bolivares announced by Minister Sosa. Aguirre said she never agreed with the system that has been applied to handle financial aid.

[Begin Aguirre recording] Our dependency on the financial system must be taken into consideration. Venezuela cannot be left without payment instruments. The procedure to attend to this insolvency crisis will be completely different from the one used in the case of the eight banks. You have asked me a number of times whether I agree with this system. I cannot. Financial aid and the insolvency crisis must be handled by the Banking Superintendency, which must detect the trouble. Once the insolvency problem is detected, the state, because the insolvency crisis is general, will take over and assume control of the bank's shares. The liabilities, however, which are the bank's most valuable possession, will remain intact. [end recording]

Finally, she explained that the government is not dealing with 2 million people affected by the intervention but with 2 million banking instruments, which does not necessarily involve 2 million people because one single person may possess several instruments.

Officials Make Contradictory Statements on Bank Openings

PA1706162494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] According to Bank Superintendent Tesalio Cadenas, the opening of banks in which the government has intervened and payments to depositors scheduled for next week is still uncertain, despite assertions by the finance minister. While the FOGADE [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Law] president announced that payments to depositors in these banks will commence next week and that the timetable for payments will be disclosed this week, Cadenas indicated that the payments can be made only if Congress approves the use of 250 billion bolivars based on the Law of Public Credit.

Once again official spokespersons are contradicting each other by not providing the same information to depositors, thereby increasing uneasiness. Cadenas said the

goal is for all accounts to be paid equally, that is, not only savings accounts, but also checking, time deposits, cash, and others. With regard to the banks that the government has intervened in, he said that these could not sustain the large withdrawals of capital by the public resulting from a lack of trust. The people, he noted, should not listen to rumors.

[Begin Cadenas recording] I hope the public will react positively to this situation. I am making a sincere appeal to people to use good sense and not to be led astray by rumors. If the public is led astray by rumors, anything can happen. There is no valid reason for [word indistinct] bank can do that. There is no reason for this, unless the public loses trust. If the public starts to make massive withdrawals, it would be impossible...that is, there is no institution that can support this, as Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, said. [end recording]

With regard to the differences between the banks and the associations to which they belong, such as the Banking Association and the Banking Board, Cadenas emphasized that this is not encouraging, given the nation's current situation.

Meanwhile, contrary to the decision by the Banking Superintendency and FOGADE, the national government has decided to guarantee that these banks will open their doors on Monday to pay savings accounts up to 4 million bolivars. This was stated by Guillermo Alvarez, Central Information Office [OCI] minister, when reporting on issues discussed at the ministerial cabinet meeting held this Thursday at the Miraflores Palace. Alvarez explained that the depositors will be protected; however, he said that the fact that an answer has been given to the depositors does not mean that the Venezuelan justice system and the government itself, through the corresponding mechanisms, cannot act at a given time, in an attempt to guarantee the assets that were wrongly managed. The OCI chief said that there are legal mechanisms to take action in this regard, although he did not specify whether the state is willing to sue the bankers that illegally used the resources provided by FOGADE in order to rescue the lost funds.

[Begin Alvarez recording] FOGADE has guaranteed a large proportion of bank assets. I cannot say right now what the proportion is; I cannot give you the exact percentage. Nevertheless, the proportion is large, because those banks have [word indistinct] properties and they have securities, negotiable documents that can guarantee a substantial part of the monies fraudulently managed. This money has not been donated by FOGADE; this money was granted as a loan for a specific period, as a guarantee to the depositors, as we have mentioned. [end recording]

Finance Minister Denies Other Bank Problems

PA1806205394 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 17 Jun 94 pp 1-1, 1-14

[Report by Mayra Chirino Ochoa]

[Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez denied that other banks were confronting liquidity problems and reiterated that those institutions in which the government had intervened will resume operations on Monday.

The explanations were a result of the wave of rumors that have arisen with respect to other financial institutions confronting problems. According to public opinion, there is a list of institutions facing bankruptcy that have been rejected for intervention by the finance minister.

In brief statements to the press, the finance minister overruled the Banking Superintendency's stance with respect to the banks' opening again in two months time and said: "Take notice of what I am saying, they will open [words indistinct]."

Sosa Rodriquez was also asked about repayment schedules, to which he reiterated that up to 4 million bolivares would be paid, as established by law, and not the 10 million bolivares recommended by the Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund (Fogade). Nevertheless, the finance minister expressed his confidence that account holders will not "withdraw 4 million bolivares in one single blow."

The minister did not explain how they intend to cover the funds once the banks begin to operate, since it had already been reported that the funds would be obtained through a 150 billion bolivar bond issuance as approved by the Public Credit Law, better known as the Emergency Law, which includes a total sum of 400 billion bolivares. This total amount is intended to be enough to reimburse 90 percent of the account holders of the eight institutions in which the government intervened this past Tuesday.

Finally, Julio Sosa Rodriguez was asked about the censure vote proposed by the Radical Cause Party parliamentary bloc, which, if supported by two thirds of the vote, would force the minister to resign. The minister refrained from commenting, smiled, and only recalled that a censure vote had already been passed against Andres German Otero, an engineer such as himself. Mr. Otero was finance minister during the first government of former President Carlos Andres Perez. Congress is scheduled to vote on the censure motion this coming Tuesday.

Government Issues Bonds So Banks Can Reopen

PA1906043094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Cabinet Council held a special meeting on Saturday and authorized the issuance of public debt bonds so Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] can meet the demands of the eight banks involved in the intervention.

Guillermo Alvarez Bajares, Central Information Office [OCI] minister, made the announcement while reporting on the topics discussed at the special meeting. Although he admitted there were technical problems involved in immediately paying savings account holders at the intervened banks, he did not rule out the possibility that these banks could reopen their doors on Monday and Tuesday to honor these commitments. He said the decree approved by the president will be published in the official gazette on Saturday night, a task for which printing press personnel have already been designated.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez, in progress]...invest 400 billion bolivares at this time. The first investment is 150 billion to cover Fogade's demands to meet the requirements of the eight banks you already know about. This was the main point on today's agenda. This decree will be published in the official gazette tonight. As a sign of the urgency with which we have treated the case, we have already assigned printing press personnel to perform this task.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Alvarez] Our intention, which was announced by the finance minister a few days ago, was to get the banks to open tomorrow and resume normal operations. Excuse me, I meant Monday. The bank superintendent has said there are technical problems which they are trying to overcome and which could prevent them from opening on Monday. If they cannot open on Monday, they will open on Tuesday. It would be a 24-hour thing, at any rate. There is no contradiction here. [end recording]

The OCI minister said that if Congress and the executive branch have submitted this plan to pay savings account holders on Monday and Tuesday, the money does exist.

Fogade To Return Funds to Central Bank

PA2006042894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] As soon as the public debt bonds are placed on the market, Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] will be able to return to the Central Bank of Venezuela [BCV] the funds this bank has disbursed to assist those banks that have been intervened.

BCV President Antonio Casas Gonzalez is reluctant to disburse additional funds, but he said there is no other option.

The public credit law, which aims to provide funds to Fogade, stipulates these bonds should not accrue interest and are nonnegotiable, but they may be redeemed early.

Bank Superintendency Preparing Data Bank

PA2006042794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The General Bank Superintendency is preparing a special data bank to ensure that funds in accounts held by shareholders of intervened banks are not payed out with the funds Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] will provide to help bank depositors. The superintendency has made this announcement in a communique stating they are working at full force on the computer systems of the 51 companies and institutions that were affected by bank intervention measures so as to honor, as soon as possible, the commitments accountable to the depositors.

Credit Bank Seeks Withdrawal From Association

PA1706174994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Venezuelan Credit Bank has requested its withdrawal from the National Banking Association because it does not agree with statements issued by its official spokespersons. This was announced by Venezuelan Credit Bank President Garcia Mendoza, who described the National Banking Association's communique on the way in which the Executive Branch has handled the financial crisis as disrespectful.

Mendoza also did not agree with what National Banking Association President Jose Bouza Izquierdo said, because criticism is not among the duties of that association. Mendoza also said that he does not understand how the National Banking Association claims it works on behalf of the depositors during financial crises because the bankers acted contrary to this.

Senator Reveals Alleged Plot To Overthrow Government

PA1706174894 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Jun 94 p D-5

[Report by Ascension Reyes R.]

[Text] General (ret) Alberto Muller Rojas [currently a Senator] has denounced the existence of a plot to overthrow the government by reactionary sectors led by former Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon.

The senator said his Radical Cause Party has come into possession of information regarding the plot and the involvement of several active and retired officers, generals, and admirals.

Muller Rojas underscored that the coupists have held several meetings abroad, particularly in Aruba.

"During a meeting with Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom, I gave him this information and told him it might be worth his while to examine the flight plans maintained at the control towers of La Carlota and other airports for information concerning active officers' trips to Aruba on private flights."

Muller Rojas said that his disclosures are intended as a warning to Venezuelan society to reject the coup and especially to career officers, who should adopt measures to prevent another coup, which would be harmful to the Armed Forces and the country.

Muller reiterated that the government should intensify its investigation and reveal the plot, which poses a serious threat to public peace considering the country's current situation.

Muller Rojas said that approximately eight days ago he saw Vice Admiral Munoz Leon at the Tamanaco hotel, where the plotters had held a meeting. He said that although he has no proof, there is well-founded evidence that implicates the conspirators.

Former Coupist Implicates Defense Minister

PA1806191794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jun (AFP)—The controversy regarding possible coup attempts in Venezuela heightened this weekend with new charges that implicate Defense Minister Rafael Montero Revette, despite denials by President Rafael Caldera.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, head of the thwarted February 1992 military coup, charged in a communique to the media that Minister Montero Revette conspired last year against the then Defense Minister Radames Munoz in an alleged coup that did not materialize.

"Current Defense Minister Gen. Montero Revette was involved up to his neck in the military coup that Vice Admiral Radames Munoz was going to carry out last December," Chavez states in his communique. The retired military officer also maintains that "there is plenty of evidence. The (provisional) government of Dr. (Ramon) Velasquez (1993) had the evidence, and his interior minister was fully aware of that conspiracy."

According to Chavez, the former minister was "protected" on that occasion by the ruling political parties, because "a coup of that sort would maintain the status quo, corruption, and the privileges of ruling political and economic groups and would quell the struggle of the people to improve their welfare."

Chavez was imprisoned after the coup attempt, until his release two months ago, when he benefited from a presidential amnesty granted by President Caldera, within the framework of the Armed Forces' peace process. This amnesty led to the release of virtually all those implicated in the February and November 1992 coup attempts.

A few days before taking office last February, Caldera asked Vice Admiral Munoz and the ranking military command accompanying him to resign. He appointed Montero Revette, who until that time was Army commander, the new defense minister. Although, with the change in the military high command and release of the coupist officers, Caldera managed to maintain a period of calm in the military sector for several months, charges of new conspiracies surfaced this week.

Alberto Muller, retired general and current senator, charged that Munoz is preparing a new coup, while Montero Revette said that "rightist and leftist" groups are conspiring. Montero Revette mentioned Chavez and the "Red Flag" organization, among other leftist groups.

This wave of rumors was denied this week by Caldera, who said that "the most prosperous industry in Venezuela is spreading rumors." Caldera said: "I am convinced that the democratic system in my country is a firm and stable reality." Venezuela, which has been a representative democracy for 36 years, experienced two thwarted coups in 1992, and since then coup rumors have surfaced periodically in the country.

Commanders Criticize Senate Promotion Method

PA1906021994 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Jun 94 p d-2

[Report by Ascension Reyes R.]

[Text] There are rumors in the Senate Defense Commission that several Armed Forces commanders are unsatisfied with the Commission's new method of evaluating candidates for promotion.

The discontent is due primarily to the fact that leading military commanders believe the Commission is overstepping its authority by requesting documents that had not been previously required. They also object to filling out a questionnaire, which must be submitted by candidates ranging in rank from lieutenant colonel to colonel and from Navy commander to Navy captain. Candidates for division general and vice-admiral are excluded from this procedure.

It seems that Defense Minister General Rafael Montero Revette also disagrees with the evaluation system used by the Senate Commission. The system requires an interview with each candidate, some of whom were excluded from consideration at the last minute.

For its part, the Defense Commission has presented numerous objections to the list of candidates presented by the National Guard and Army. Several legislators say

the lists are unclear and have pointed out several contradictions between the "Order of Initial Precedence (OPI)" and the "Correction Factors."

The senators also disagree with the changes made following the initial evaluation and the final results presented by the Defense Ministry. They do not understand why in some cases the OPI states that the officers have done excellent work, but later the candidates are given a negative score and a request is made that the candidate be "placed in a post compatible with their professional performance" without specifying the person's faults. The senators feel there is a contradiction in saying that a person is excellent and later downgrading him on the list.

The Defense Commission has received more than four cases of candidates for promotion who were rejected. Those officers have met with the legislators to give them their files.

Veto to Division Generals

On another issue, it has been reported that several of the names proposed by President Rafael Caldera to be promoted to division generals do not have the support of all senators. Several senators say the candidates do not merit promotion while others who are more meritorious were not taken into account. It is thus possible that the legislature will vote against several of those promotions.

Bus Owners Blame Governor for Student Riots

PA1806185794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Jorge Brusco; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Bus owners have directly accused Governor Guillermo Cal of being responsible for the acts of violence that took place in Maturin and for the resulting damages to 25 buses. Representatives and leaders of the transportation sector and 5 July Cooperative President Eudis Febres, 5 July Cooperative Treasurer Saul Verdones, and Jesus Aquiles Rondon, secretary general of the Bus Drivers Union, think it is suspicious that the protest began with the burning of tires at approximately 0730 and that the police did not arrive until after midday.

Very few students participated in the incidents. The few that did are activists of the Democratic Action Party [AD] and were led by Eudis Marin. We have no idea how he is connected to these incidents. We have learned that Marin is not a student but an AD activist.

French Guiana

Ariane 64 Rocket Puts 3 Satellites in Orbit

PA1706151294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1123 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 17 Jun (AFP)—The European Ariane 64 rocket was successfully launched from the Kourou Space Center in French Guiana at 0407 local (0707 GMT) this morning. The rocket put into orbit three satellites, the large Intelsat-702 of the International Satellite Telecommunications Organization, Intelsat, and two British military experimental satellites, 20 and 25 minutes after launch time. This success erases the failure of Ariane 63's launch attempt on 24 January, which grounded the Arianespace Corporation's rockets for nearly five months.

A former attempt at launching Ariane 64 aborted on 4 June because of a technical problem at the liftoff tower. One of the holding arms failed to separate from the launcher's third stage, and the computers prevented the rocket engines from firing up.

Placed in a geostationary transfer orbit, Intelsat-702, which weighs 3,695 kg and is the second satellite in Intelsat's seventh generation, will fire up its engine in a few days, which will put it in the apogee of its orbit and directly above the Gulf of Guinea at longitude 1 degree west. The satellite will thus be incorporated into the network of approximately 20 Intelsat satellites that handle most international communications.

For Arianespace, this successful launch marks the resumption of the flights suspended four months ago. The leaders of the enterprise that markets the Ariane rockets throughout the world hope to carry out 10 annual launches to win a bet that they can make 30 such launchings before 1996.

The next launch is scheduled to be made on 8 July and involves a U.S. satellite, Panamsat-2, and a Japanese satellite, BS-3N. These launches are to be followed by those of the Turksat-1B and Brazilsat-B1 satellites on 30 July. After launching Ariane 64, Arianespace still has 39 satellites, worth $3.1 billion, to be put in orbit.

Intelsat, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the only satellite telecommunications operator that covers the entire planet. The corporation uses approximately 20 satellites in orbit above the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

SRTV-1A and SRTV-1B are two mini-satellites built by the United Kingdom's Defence Research Agency (DRA) for the British Defense Ministry. Those small 45-cm-wide, 45-cm-deep, and 47-cm-high cubes, which weigh 50 and 53 kg, are designed to conduct several experiments over a 12-month span involving the static charge on the satellite's outer surface, wear on new materials, new solar cells, and cosmic radiation.

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